

CRC Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 24, 2001
Nashville, TN
4:00-6:00 P.M.
Minutes by Ed Jaselskis

Attendees:

Cliff Schexnayder, Arizona State University
Eric Showalter, University of Missouri-Rolla
Russ Walters, Iowa State University
Michael Toole, Bucknell
Ben Uwakweh, University of Cincinnati
Jim Rowings, Iowa State University
Edward Minchin, Iowa State University
Ed Jaselskis, Iowa State University

Anticipated Absence:

Simaan Abourizk, Paul Chinowsky, Phillip Dunston, Edd Gibson, Carl Haas, Greg Howell, Gary Smith, John Miller, and Jim O'Connor.

This meeting was chaired by Ed Jaselskis.

CRC's Involvement in the Construction Institute (Rowings)

Rowings discussed some of issues related to CRC's involvement with the Construction Institute as he is one of the members of the Executive Committee of the Education and Research Directorate. This is an evolving relationship. Both short and long-range research goals were established as follows:

Short-range:

1. Continue and expand the use of the CRC website.
2. Continue the use of the CRC list server for information exchange within the U.S. construction community.
3. Continue and expand member opportunities for networking and exchange information.
4. Continue with support and administration of the Peruifoy Award.

Long-range:

1. Develop and publish a periodic inventory of research in construction.
2. Develop and publish a periodic statement of research needs in construction.
3. Propose and sponsor more awards in construction research.
4. Begin work on developing "knowledge classification" for construction.
5. Plan and conduct "state of the art" conferences presenting the best information and practices in focused areas.

Website

Currently, the CRC web page is based at Georgia Tech (<http://cem.ce.gatech.edu/crc>). It was noted that information such as names and addresses needs to be updated. For security reasons, Georgia Tech will not be able to host an interactive website that allows us to make changes over the internet. It was recommended to determine whether or not ASCE could maintain the CRC website. Jaselskis will contact Rich Lawhun at ASCE to discuss this possibility.

Peruifoy Award Update

A nomination for the Peruifoy Award has been identified and recommended for approval by ASCE. Rowings and his subcommittee were responsible for the selection process. Abourizk will write a letter to ASCE with our nomination.

Journal of Construction Engineering and Management

Rowings mentioned that there is a growing backlog of papers and that in about two years, we might consider publishing the Journal on a monthly basis. A majority of submittals are of international origin, primarily from Asia. Few senior faculty members are publishing papers. The Journal is not seeing any appreciable increase in the number of practitioners publishing papers. There is a good blend in terms of subject matter. Review process is challenging from a time standpoint. Part of the reason is because staff turnover has been fairly high at ASCE. Acceptance rate is 43-44%. Suggestions for improving the Journal included: consider having a special publication on topics of interest, publish a journal issue containing all of the “classic” articles. There was also a brief discussion of using an electronic review process. ASCE is currently evaluating this option but the software is still too expensive and there are copyright issues that still need to be resolved. In the future, it is anticipated that ASCE will use an electronic paper review process.

Panel members needed for session at next ASCE Annual Convention

Rowings and Schexnayder will moderate a panel on contemporary issues in construction at the next ASCE annual convention in Houston. This session is sponsored by CRC and will include both CRC and non-CRC members. Rowings would like to showcase research in different areas and would like more people to become a part of this organization. Schexnayder would like to reach out to other all researchers (geotech, structures, etc.). Schexnayder also mentioned that CRC can publish papers for this conference (due in June). A discussion of possible topics and suggested experts to lead each area were discussed as follows:

1. Vision for CRC (Simaan Abourizk).
2. Information technology (Ray Levitt or Martin Fisher).
3. Construction automation and process innovation (could include automated quality control) (Carl Haas).
4. People and Organizational Issues (e.g., worker motivation, supervision, organizational processes for construction projects, safety, and contractual delivery systems) (no name identified).

It was also discussed to have a session on what young faculty have to do to get tenure then how to become a full professor? It was also suggested that the session include an industry keynote speaker to discuss research and innovation needs within design and construction companies—possibly a past award winner (Nova, Opal, etc.). Ben Gerwick’s name came up as a possibility.

CRC Guidelines and Operating Procedures

Jaselskis mentioned that the CRC Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing the CRC guidelines and operating procedures to make them consistent with the recent changes with the Construction Institute (last revised and ratified by council membership on October 22, 1995). Participants at the meeting made some suggestions as follows:

Minutes should be sent electronically via email.

There is no more Construction Division.

Notice of meetings needs to be announced at least one month ahead of time.

Fundraising Ideas

It was discussed that we need money to make things happen such as developing a professional engineering exam for construction professionals. Rowings suggested that we should support the services and not just the money. Presently, the Journal is our biggest moneymaker. Reviewed fundraising ideas generated by a subgroup after the CRC meeting in Seattle last October. It was discussed that posting web-based case studies or topics could be a good way to introduce lecture materials. Refer to telephone conference minutes for more details.

Future CRC Activities

Construction Congress

It was strongly felt by meeting participants that we should have the next construction congress in conjunction with the AGC National Convention in Hawaii in 2003 and that we should have a congress every third year to avoid conflicts with ConExpo. This will need to be cleared with the CRC Executive Committee, Construction Institute, and AGC. Jaselskis will talk to Ernie Jones at AGC to start approval process.

CRC meeting at ASCE annual convention in Washington, D.C. (2002)

It was recommended that in addition to a regular meeting, we should also have guest speakers from different funding organizations in Washington, D.C., talk to our group [e.g., NSF, TRB, and NCHRP (Crawford Jinx)]. The idea would be to give each speaker about 15 minutes to present and then offer CRC members sufficient time for questions and answers. For better organization of these presentations, it was recommended to obtain each speaker's slides ahead of time. Schexnayder needs to know by the middle of May whether or not we will need a room for this meeting.

Announcements

Dr. Ben Uwakweh, University of Cincinnati, made an announcement about the 10th International Symposium on Construction Innovation and Global Competitiveness which will be held September 9-13, 2002 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Themes include: innovation in the construction industry, globalization and competitiveness, innovative project delivery systems, e-commerce and the construction process, quality improvement and safety in construction, and construction workforce issues. CRC members are encouraged to submit papers to this symposium. For further information regarding registration, accommodations, and exhibits, please contact:

CIB Symposium
University Conferencing
University of Cincinnati
PO Box 210031
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0031
Phone: (513) 558-1810
Fax: (513) 558-0385
Email: univconf@usmail.uc.edu
Website: www.conferencing.uc.edu

Dr. Fred Rahbar sent Jaselskis an email regarding a one year construction management consulting opportunity in Jeddah that is open to anyone interested. A leading consulting company in Jeddah is finalizing a proposal with a major Saudi Arabian construction firm to perform the following:

1. Reengineering of existing systems.
2. Development of a real time database and management reporting system, and
3. Selection/implementation of latest and best supporting software for a complete IT system.

The consulting firm already has the local and IT expertise, but requires team members with in depth construction management experience. This position requires knowledge and experience in construction management and would be a perfect opportunity for a faculty member on a one year sabbatical who will enjoy living in the modern port city of Jeddah on the Red Sea. If anyone is interested, please send an email to Dr. Rahbar at rahbarfm@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in conjunction with the ASCE Annual Convention this Fall in Houston, TX. More information regarding this meeting will follow.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:00 P.M.