

Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2001
Houston, Texas

Attendees: Stuart Anderson, Sam Ariaratnam, Deanna Corbell, John Gambatese, Paul Goodrum, Carl Haas, Chris Hendrickson, Jimmie Hinze, Arpad Horvath, Chuck Jahren, Enno Koehn, Kris Mattila, John Messner, Edward Minchin, Keith Molenaar, Jeffrey Russell, Cliff Schexnayder, T. Michael Toole, Richard Tucker, Jorge Vanegas, and Russ Walters

Anticipated Absence: Simaan Abourizk, Phillip Dunston, and Jim Pocock

Paul Chinowsky chaired meeting

Approved minutes from CRC meeting in Nashville, TN. Motion to approve by Russell. Second by Ariaratnam.

Administrative Issues:

Revised guidelines for CRC will be sent out to members for approval. Jaselskis to email guidelines. A vote will be taken at a later time.

Future Meetings:

There was more interest among meeting participants to have a meeting with AGC/ConExpo in Las Vegas (March 19-23) instead of in Washington, D.C. Jaselskis to send out message to general membership to see how many people would be interested in attending a spring meeting in Las Vegas.

Construction Congress:

The next construction congress will be in March 2003 in Hawaii. The theme of the conference, Winds of Change, emphasizes the focus on new challenges, technologies, management techniques, and education opportunities. This is a peer-reviewed conference with a new look and new format. Each day will highlight a specific theme and specific topic. Plenary sessions and panel discussions will provide opportunities to highlight the issues presented in the topic tracks. Enhancing the conference experience will be the opportunity to interact with the AGC annual conference that will be held concurrently with the Construction Congress. The call for papers will be at the end of this year.

The current organizing committee is as follows: Paul Chinowsky (Chair), Simaan Abourizk, Ed Jaselskis, Keith Molenaar, Anil Sawheny, and Tony Songer.

Relevant Comments:

- Make it an environment that people will want to attend. Learn lessons from other conferences. Try to do something different; for example, start at 7:45 A.M. and end at around 1 P.M.
- Use CII plenary model. Get some interaction.
- Do we want ASCE title or CI (ASCE fee is 15%)
- Discussion: what's a few hundred dollars more for an expensive conference (Haas). Tie into the AGC. Monies can be split between the Institute and ASCE. This money can be used to support other activities which is good.
- It would be wise to do with ASCE (Hinze).
- Need to get representation from all different levels.
- There could be three self-contained days each sponsored by one of the journals. Technology (four or five topics—each topic will have three sessions with a plenary session, breakout then panel).
- May need to run one track for more than one day (Hinze).
- Refer to topics for CE World: ASCE's first Virtual World Congress for Civil Engineering (www.CEWORLD.org) (Vanegas).
- Try to consider having topics that relate to certain areas of the U.S. Use an interdisciplinary approach (Deanna).

- Can we have a corner of the exhibition floor for a booth? This would be good advertising (Vanegas).
- Could open up night sessions with AGC. Can get AGC folks to register even for one day and attend sessions (Molennar).
- Poll AGC for topics and interested industry participants. Proctor and Gamble is interested in workforce development, for example. That way there might be ownership in AGC promoting and attending the conference (Corbett). Follow up by Hinze: Point is dead on. We write more to academics than industry. People might not want to sign up for the ASCE Congress.

The Construction Institute (Richard Tucker)

The Construction Institute has been in existence for about one year (September 2000) and is one of six institutes established to date. Both Russell and Schexnayder helped set up this Institute. The purpose is to broaden membership to include corporate and other individuals that would not typically have an ASCE membership. Existing ASCE committees were folded into the Construction Institute.

The Board of Directors includes the following:

Charles E. Mergentime, President
 Robert L. Polvi, Senior Vice President
 John F. Donohoe, Vice President
 Brian C. Kaub, Treasurer
 Joseph L. Ehasz, Construction
 George C. Hoff, Materials
 John R. Lombardi, Owners
 Robert S. O'Neil, Engineering
 Lawrence H. Silber, Equipment
 Richard L. Tucker, Education & Research
 Jeffrey S. Russell, ASCE Board Contact
 John E. Durrant, Secretary
 Richard E. Lawhun, Director

Kelly Coates is the coordinator.

Activities to date include:

- Board of direction has been organized;
- Established logo and membership forms;
- Created by-laws;
- Hired staff;
- Developed web page [CRC may want to be a part of the CI web page.];
- Conducted membership drive and obtained 13 corporate members and eight individual members. [ASCE members are automatically members.];
- Established a construction site safety policy; and
- Awards Committee: Institute needs to approve awards.

Budget: 340,000 for this year (ASCE contributes \$250,000).

Issue related to Journal of Construction Engineering and Management: Several issues related to the Journal need to be addressed. CI Board of Directors (and academics) are concerned that the contents are too research oriented. Recommendations will be made to the CI Board of Directors regarding the Journal in May 2002. There will be a meeting in December to visit ASCE to learn more about the Journal and develop a reasonable path forward.

Professional Licensing: David Johnston has done a good job with Construction Education Committee related to professional licensing for construction. He is currently working toward professional registration for construction engineers through state and national agencies. Institute endorses these efforts.

Visibility of CE graduates with Construction programs. ASC schools of construction seem to be recognized in AGC but not the CE programs with construction programs. David Johnston and the Construction Education Committee will develop a course of action. ENR to come out with article later this month.

Elections:

The following new members were voted in: Russ Walters (Iowa State University), Paul Goodrum (University of Kentucky), John Messner (Penn State University), and Michael Toole (Bucknell).

CRC Secretary:

Keith Molenaar was nominated by Sam Ariaratnam. Corbett seconded the nomination. Motion to elect by Gambatese. Second by Vanegas. Unanimous vote.

Faculty positions:

- Iowa State University is advertising for a senior faculty member to replace Jim Rowings.
- Oregon State University has two open positions: 1) Practice-oriented position (Construction education endowment) 2) Half business, half construction engineering position (donation from contractor).
- University of Colorado is looking to hire a faculty member to replace Tony Songer.
- The United States Air Force Academy seeks a visiting professor. Please contact Jim Pocock.

Comments:

- Last year there were 19 positions open most did not get filled. Quality not good enough to get tenured. We are at great risk of losing a lot of programs.
- Industry could provide fellowships for industry experts to teach in construction programs and obtain Ph.D. degrees. Could also approach national contractors for money. (Jahren)
- Members should send names of Ph.D.s that are working in the industry as one way to increase the pool of faculty. These “industry” Ph.D.’s could help leverage proposals.
- Need to attract more U.S. students to graduate school. There are fewer U.S. residents applying; we are in bidding war against each other – students will go with the highest offer. (Vanegas)
- CRC could obtain funds for promotion and advertising from the Department of Education and others. Can sponsor a workshop for graduate students; for example, a half day workshop could be sponsored at one of our meetings.
- Should think about conferences with competitions. Construction should have its own competitions. (Vanegas)
- Where are graduates getting jobs. Send out letter and have a panel of industry PhDs. Could do this at the spring meeting. (Ariaratnam)

Action Item:

A subcommittee was formed to investigate graduate student recruitment including the following members: Paul Chinowsky and Ed Jaselskis. Please contact Paul Chinowsky if you are interested in participating on this subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.