

**Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22, 2002**  
**Bellagio Hotel, Las Vegas**

**Attendees:** Edward Jaselskis, Keith Molenaar, Rick Coble, John Gambatese, Ralph Ellis, David Johnston, Zohar Herbsman, Ali Touran, Lansford Bell, Lucio Soibelman, Khaled El-Rayes, Anil Sawhney, Jerry Rounds, Clark Pace, Luh Chang, Eddy Rojas, Sam Ariarathnam, Leonhard Bernold, Douglas Gransberg, André Mund, Edward Minchin, Ben Obinevo Uwakweh, Ahmad Hadavi

Ed Jaselskis chaired the meeting.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ed Jaselskis welcomed the group and circulated the agenda. New attendees/candidates we introduced.

During the introductions, a few announcements were made. Please refer to the announcement section at the end of these minutes.

**New Member Applications**

Douglas Gransberg with the University of Oklahoma applied for membership. His resume was circulated during the meeting.

**Construction Congress Overview**

Anil Sawhney presented an overview of Construction Congress VII. The congress is being planned for March 2003 in Hawaii. The congress has the tentative approval of ASCE and the support of the Construction Institute. The congress planning committee has been formed and is preparing themes, advertisements and requests for abstracts and papers. Paul Chinowsky, the congress chair, is having some difficulty coordinating the logistics of the congress with ASCE. Since this is the first major academic conference being done under the Construction Institute, there are many new coordination issues to be resolved. ASCE would like to control the budget and the logistics of the conference, but they are having difficulty making timely decisions due to coordination of the Construction Institute and ASCE management structures. Paul has been in contact with ASCE and traveled to Washington DC to ensure coordination. However, the budget and the logistics are not yet finalized.

One goal of having the congress in Hawaii is to partner with the AGC annual convention. The logistics of this coordination are proving to be difficult. Three options were presented to the CRC meeting for discussion; hold the meeting concurrently with the AGC convention; hold it immediately before the AGC convention; or immediately after the convention. A lengthy discussion ensued about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. The option of holding the Construction Congress concurrently with the AGC convention generated the most discussion. Advantages of the concurrent option were cited as help with collaboration between academic and industry, possibility of local AGC sponsorship of events and more options for attendees of both conferences. The disadvantage of holding the events concurrently will be hotel and meeting room availability. Hotel availability was cited as the main advantage for holding the congress immediately before or after the AGC convention. A straw poll was taken for the timing of congress in conjunction with the AGC convention and the majority of members would like to hold the events concurrently if possible (Straw Poll Results: 14 votes for concurrently, 4 votes for before or after, 5 votes undecided).

Other suggestions for the conference planning committee to consider are:

- A strong commitment from AGC will be needed to make the conferences work in a concurrent manner.
- What will the specific connection be between the AGC and ASCE conferences?
- There is an opportunity for collaboration with academics from the Far East that should be considered.
- Regarding the overlap of events with the AGC convention, there was much discussion concerning student internships. The sense of the meeting was that an academic/industry panel discussion of internships and student recruitment might draw good attendance from the AGC.

- The measures of success were identified as quality of presentations and logistics, attendance and regional collaboration.

### **Peurifoy Award Update**

Ed Jaselskis updated the attendees on the status of the Peurifoy Award and thanked Simaan Abou Rizk for his efforts on the nomination this year. The CRC awards committee has made a recommendation to have no Peurifoy Award winner for 2002. The CRC executive committee endorsed the recommendation and forwarded it to the Construction Institute. In summary, the recommendation was made because of a poor advertisement for nominations this year and a change in the deadline from April to February leaving the CRC with no time to encourage new nominations. A discussion ensued about when and how to prepare nominations for the award. The discussion ended with a charge to the CRC members to prepare detailed nominations before the advertised deadline. The CRC executive committee will ensure that the advertisement for the award is circulated widely in a timely fashion for 2003.

### **Membership and Email List**

The CRC membership list was circulated. The final updated mailing list will be sent to the Construction Institute and CRC members in April. One member made a specific request that the membership list and CRC email list only be used for ASCE and CRC related business. The need for directions on use of the mailing and email lists was discussed. The CRC Executive Committee and Ahmad Hadavi will discuss the use of these lists and create a policy statement if one is needed.

### **Academic Recruiting Committee**

A focused subcommittee of Paul Chinowsky, Keith Molenaar, Liang Liu, Chuck Jahren, and Sam Ariarathnam has been selected to work on the Academic Recruitment Subcommittee. Senior CEM faculty will also be asked to review the subcommittee's work and recommendations. Paul Chinowsky has begun work on this task through two main efforts. The first was to hold a senior construction faculty meeting in February to discuss the status of construction engineering and management education. The meeting was held in Las Vegas and the senior attendees included David Ashley, James Diekmann, Chris Hendrickson, David Johnston, Jeff Russell, Bob Tatum, Richard Tucker and Jorge Vanegas. A white paper report of the event will be available to the CRC membership later this summer. The second initiative that Paul Chinowsky is perusing is to create a CEM family tree that maps the CEM programs with faculty and graduates. The tree will be circulated to the CRC for review in April. All members are encouraged to review the document and provide feedback. The subcommittee will be setting its objectives in the next few months. Subcommittee work will be completed over the summer for presentation at the fall CRC meeting to be held in conjunction with the ASCE national convention.

### **CRC Web Page**

Please send any new content for the CRC web page to Mike Toole [ttoole@bucknell.edu]. He will be updating the content of the web page over the next few months.

<http://www.constructioninst.org/CRC.htm>

### **Announcements**

John Gambatese – An ad hoc committee on Constructability is forming. The committee will operate under the umbrella of the construction institute. Please contact John Gambatese [John.Gambatese@orst.edu] for more information.

Leonhard Bernold – Announced a student competition sponsored by the Field Sensing and Robotics Committee with the Aerospace Institute. Anyone interested in this event should contact Leonhard E. Bernold [bernold@eos.ncsu.edu] for more details.

David Johnston – The CI Construction Engineering Education Committee received agreements from the NCEES to explore "Depth in Construction" as an option for the Professional Engineering examination. Anyone interested in this initiative should contact David Johnston [johnston@eos.ncsu.edu] for more details.

Faculty openings were announced at the following universities:

- Oregon State – 2 positions
- University of Washington – 2 positions
- Iowa State – 2 positions

**New Member Elections**

Douglas Gransberg was unanimously granted membership to the CRC.

Andre Mund, a Ph.D. candidate at the Arizona State University, was in attendance and expressed his interest to find academic employments. He is completing his Ph.D. under the direction of Anil Sawhney in the area of residential construction.