

Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2002
Renaissance Washington DC Hotel

Attendees:

Paul Chinowsky, Ed Jaselskis, Keith Molenaar, Guillermo Salazar, Trefor Williams, David Riley, John Messner, David Johnston, Dan Halpin, Rick Coble, Jimmie Hinze, Gena Abraham, Jorge Vanegas, Ralph Ellis, Liang Liu, Bill Maloney, Dulcy Abraham, Jim O'Connor, Kris Mattila, Tony Songer, Mike Garvin, Young Kwak, Mamoon Hammad, Khaled El-Rayes, Brenda McCabe, Lucio Soibelman, Ahmad Hadavi, Mike Toole, David Chua, Russell Walters, Ed Minchin, Steven Kuennen, Feniosky Pena-Mora.

Paul Chinowsky chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Paul Chinowsky welcomed the group and circulated the agenda. New attendees/candidates were introduced.

New Member Nominations

Michael Garvin, Columbia University
Mamoon Hammad, George Washington University
Steven Kuennen, Air Force Academy
Feniosky Pena-Mora, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Young Kwak, George Washington University
Gena Abraham, Georgia Institute of Technology

Update of Construction Research Congress

Paul Chinowsky provided a status report on the 2003 ASCE Construction Research Congress March 19-21, in Honolulu, Hawaii. After slow start due to a long negotiation period with ASCE, the conference is well on its way to being a great success. The planning committee limited the number of presentations to 120 in an effort to provide more time for discussion and better session attendance. The response to the congress has been overwhelming with over 250 abstract submissions. The technical committee accepted approximately 150 abstracts to be peer reviewed as full papers for the final 120 presentation slots. Papers not selected for presentation slots will either be declined or accepted for poster presentation and publication in the proceedings.

Paul encouraged people to register early for the conference. There is a contract with United for 10% off the lowest available fair. All information is available on the conference website at <http://www.aecstrategies.com/congress/>

The conference is being held in conjunction with AGC national convention. Currently, a joint registration has not been finalized. Please refer to the conference website for more information.

It was the sense of the committee that there should be a Construction Research Congress in 2005. Ken Walsh has expressed interest in coordinating the next Congress in San Diego during the spring of 2005. Any CRC members who are interested in hosting the conference or volunteering for conference activities should contact the CRC Chair, Ed Jaselskis. A decision on the conference location and planning committee members will be made in the coming months.

Peurifoy Update

A new Peurifoy Award nomination form was created and sent out to the CRC membership in September. Nominations were due November 1, 2002.

Academic Committee Update

Keith Molenaar updated the committee on the activities of the Academic Recruiting Subcommittee. Over the past year, the subcommittee has been discussing the need to increase the number of construction engineering and management Ph.D. students who are interested in becoming faculty members at U.S.

universities. The committee discussed initiatives to mentor faculty, provide forums to present research, and provide opportunities to become involved in education. As a result of these discussions, a Ph.D. research poster session and a round table discussion of teaching and research has been arranged at this CRC meeting. Please see last two items of these minutes for more details.

Paul Chinowsky noted that there are roughly 120 faculty members in 62 engineering-based construction programs in the US. This means that there are a small number of large programs (4 or more faculty) and a large number of small programs (1-2 faculty). Paul asked for a quick idea of how many PhD students are currently enrolled in construction programs.

- Texas has approximately 20 Ph.D. students
- Purdue has approximately 16 Ph.D. students
- Colorado has approximately 10 Ph.D. students

A discussion ensued about the difficulty of raising funds and conducting research in the construction engineering and management arena. The type and nature of construction programs were discussed as well as a variety of construction engineering and management research areas. Dr. Halpin provided a bit of history on the CRC noting that it was developed in part to provide a collaborative research forum for construction engineering and management faculty conducting research in nuclear power plants. This collaborative forum is not as active as it was at the formative stages of the CRC.

The sense of these discussions is that we need to use the CRC as a conduit to nurture an active community of construction engineering and management research. The CRC can also be used to inform the U.S. research infrastructure of our substantial collective accomplishments and value.

Construction Institute Update

Ralph Ellis updated the CRC membership on the activities of the CI. The CI has gone from approximately 10,000 to 15,000 within its first three years. They are also recruiting larger corporate members. They are working on new initiatives to promote the Institute. One initiative involves holding small conferences on practitioner issues. The first few attempts have been very successful and they are forming their own conference staff, which should be beneficial for the CRC conference planning activities.

The recent focus of the CI Board in relation to the CRC has concerned publications and specifically the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. With the exception of Richard Tucker, the CI board is mainly professionals. The Board has been concerned about the professional relevance of the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. There are some initiatives to make the Journal a little more broad-based publication. They are also looking at case studies and best practice publications. Their goal is to get the best knowledge out to the industry. Donn Hancher and Bill Maloney led a discussion concerning the history of the Journal and the need to have an archival journal for the construction engineering and management academic research community.

Ed Jaselskis, editor of the Construction Journal, updated the committee on the progress of the journal. They are making some changes and Ed discussed the essence of the changes. Please see the attached "Journal Enhancements" documents for details of these changes. All CRC members should be aware of these changes.

For questions about the ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management, please contact Ed Jaselskis at (ejaselsk@iastate.edu)

New Initiatives

There was a great sense of enthusiasm at the meeting. A number of new initiatives were discussed. To keep the momentum of these initiatives, the CRC Executive Committee would like to form a number of subcommittees to take on new initiatives in the coming year. Please take the opportunity to join one of the following subcommittees.

- Subcommittee on Research

- Subcommittee on Specialty Workshops and Conferences
- Construction Research Council/Construction Institute Liaison Committee
- 2005 Construction Research Congress II planning committee
- Others??? – Please send ideas to Tony, Keith or Ed

New Member Vote

All new member nominations were passed unanimously. The CRC Executive Committees welcomes all new members to the Council and strongly encourages them to become involved in one of the initiatives mentioned above.

New Officer Election

Paul Chinowsky nominated Tony Songer of Virginia Tech for the CRC secretary position. Bill Maloney quickly moved to close nominations. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Tony Songer accepted the position as 2002-2003 CRC secretary.

Break and Poster Session

The meeting adjourned for a 30-minute break to view the Ph.D. research posters and talk with the PhD candidates. Please see the attached list of posters that were presented at the meeting. The CRC Executive Committee and Membership thanks all of the students who participated. This poster session was a great success and will be done again at future meetings.

Academic Panel Discussion

The meeting continued with a 40-minute round table discussion of research, teaching, and service in the construction engineering and management community. The discussion was extremely well attended by senior faculty, junior faculty, and students. Ed Jaselskis started the meeting with a brief overview of his experience and discussed what it means to hold an academic position. He offered some valuable suggestions to ensure success. The meeting was then opened to questions from students and discussion amongst faculty members. Topics discussed included: applying for an academic position; what to expect in an interview; securing funding; preparing curriculum; and a variety of other related topics.

Adjourn

Paul Chinowsky adjourned the meeting and thanked the membership for support during his tenure on the CRC Executive Committee. The Spring 2003 CRC Meeting will be held at the 2003 ASCE Construction Research Congress in Hawaii.