

Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2004
Hilton Head, SC

Attendees:

Simaan Abourizk, Ilker Adiguzel, David Ashley, Leonhard Bernold, Paul Chinowsky, John Draper, Jesus De La Garza, Francis Edum-Fotwe, Ralph Ellis, Khaled El-Rayes, Christine Fiori, Mike Garvin, Paul Goodrum, Vineet Kamat, Raymond Levitt, David Martin, Kris Mattila, John Messner, Edward Minchin, Keith Molenaar, Feniosky Pena-Mora, David Riley, Charles Skipper, Tony Songer, Mike Toole, Russ Walters, Trefor Williams.

Absent with Apologies:

Jim Burati, Robert I. Carr, Foad Farid, Bud Griffis, Ahmad Hadavi, Donn Hancher, Arpad Horvath, Gregory Howell, Brenda McCabe, Aminah Robinson, Jim Rowings, Edward Jaselskis, Cliff Schexnayder, Amarjit Singh, Matt Syal, Jorge Vanegas

Keith Molenaar chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Keith Molenaar called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. All participants introduced themselves, their affiliation and specialty areas.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the CRC Fall meeting that was held in Nashville, TN on November 14, 2003 were approved.

2005 Construction Research Congress Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

The 2005 Construction Research Congress will be held in San Diego, CA and Iris Tommelein, Ken Walsh and Gregory Howell are currently working on finalizing the conference venue and dates. CRC members are invited to contact conference organizers to suggest tracks and to participate in paper reviews. A website that hosts conference information is currently being developed and will be set up soon.

Peurifoy Award Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

Three nominations have been submitted for the Peurifoy award this year. The selection committee met on January 9, 2004 and selected one highly qualified candidate for the Peurifoy award. The Council made its recommendations to ASCE for final approval. An award ceremony is planned to be held next fall in conjunction with the CRC meeting during the National ASCE Convention in Baltimore. CRC members are invited to submit nominations for next year Peurifoy award.

Construction Institute (CI) Update: Ralph Ellis reported.

Ralph reported that CI was formed in 2000 and that its membership currently includes 42 construction corporations. CI sponsors a number of conferences including the Atlantic Coast Construction Conference which will be held in Vienna, Virginia on May 12 and 13, 2004. CI conferences focus on the design, construction and management of large projects. CI sponsors a number of conferences including the Atlantic Coast Construction Conference which will be held in Vienna, Virginia on May 12 and 13, 2004.

Ralph also mentioned that the board of directors of CI and its membership includes a large number of professionals from the construction industry, which highlights the need for improved interactions and better communications between CRC and CI members to create and strengthen ties between construction researchers and the construction industry. CRC members discussed a number of ideas to strengthen the ties between CI and CRC, including (a) the role that CRC can play in providing enhanced educational and training programs for the construction workforce; (b) the ongoing efforts by David Johnston and the CI Construction Engineering Education Committee to improve the PE exam to include content related to construction engineering; (c) the current efforts by Ed Jaselskis and the CRC marketing committee to update and enhance the CRC website to foster better interaction and collaboration between CRC and the construction industry; and (d) the need to maintain and expand CI/CRC liaison efforts such as the recent representation of CRC members in five of the CI directorates. Keith Molenaar concluded this discussion by highlighting the efforts of Ralph Ellis in representing CRC and keeping it viable in CI.

Academic Committee Update: Tony Songer reported.

Tony reported that the committee plans to hold a poster session in conjunction with the CRC Fall meeting in Baltimore to give graduate students in construction engineering and management an opportunity to present their research work and interact with CRC members. Raymond Levitt suggested that students be given an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves and their research topic prior to the poster session. The idea of mentoring young faculty was also discussed, especially for faculty who belong to small and young construction programs in different universities. CRC members also discussed the need for an increased level of participation from women faculty in CRC activities.

CRC-CI Liaison Committee Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

Keith highlighted the need to keep CRC viable within the ASCE Construction Institute (CI), and reported on the activities of the CI newsletter and two specialty publications that will include peer reviewed articles focusing on new highway contracting and delivery methods, and constructability.

Marketing Committee Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

The committee continues its work on updating and enhancing the CRC website. There is discussion to develop a more dynamic website to foster better interaction and collaboration between CRC and the Construction industry. Funding opportunities are being explored in order to develop a dynamic database related to construction researchers' expertise. Keith also invited CRC members to join the committee.

New Initiatives: Tony Songer reported.

Tony discussed an initiative to continue organizing workshops that focuses on scientific research methods in construction management, construction engineering and information technology. He also suggested the development of a white paper on the topic. Leonhard Bernold suggested the inclusion of an educational track in future conferences to create synergy on construction educational methods.

Journal of Construction Engineering and Management Update: Simaan Abourizk reported.

Simaan reported on the recent reorganization of the journal into ten specialty areas: case studies, construction materials and methods, contracting, cost and schedule, information technologies, labor and personnel issues, organizational issues, project planning and design, quantitative methods, and robotics and automation. For new submissions to the journal, Simaan highlighted the importance of specifying a specialty area that best fits the paper to ensure the selection of the most qualified reviewers for the paper. In the case of electronic submissions, Simaan discussed the need to submit two separate files that include an abstract and a complete manuscript to facilitate the selection of reviewers.

Faculty Positions

Announcements were made for faculty position openings in Construction Engineering next year at:

- Stanford University
- Arizona State University (2 positions)
- Michigan Technological University

New Member Vote

The nomination of Christine Fiori was passed unanimously. The CRC Executive Committees welcomes her to the Council and encourages her to become involved in CRC committees and activities.

Next Meeting

The Fall CRC Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2004 ASCE Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition in Baltimore, MD during the period of October 20-23, 2004. The exact time and room of the meeting will be posted shortly. Additional information on the 2004 ASCE Conference can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.asce.org/conferences/annual04/>

Adjourn

Keith Molenaar adjourned the meeting.

Research Methods Workshop:

The CRC ExCom organized a workshop in conjunction with NSF that focused on scientific research methods in construction management, construction engineering and information technology. The workshop focused on research methods applicable to National Science Foundation funded research, and included a panel presentation and discussion by:

- David B. Ashley, Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost, University of California, Merced
- Jesus M. de la Garza, Program Director, Information Technology and Infrastructure Systems, National
- Raymond E. Levitt, Professor & Associate Director CIFE, Stanford University

The three presentations generated stimulating discussions on scientific research methods in construction engineering and management. A copy of the presentations can be downloaded from the following CRC website: <http://www.constructioninst.org/directorates/crcminutes.cfm>