

Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2004
Baltimore, Maryland

Attendees:

Dulcy Abraham, Ilker Adiguzel, Irtishad Ahmad, Burcu Akinci, David Ashley, Yong Bai, Leonhard Bernold, Susan Bogus, Carlos Caldas, Luh-Man Chang, Ralph Ellis, Khaled El-Rayes, John Everett, Foad Farid, Christine Fiori, Deborah Fischer, John Gambatese, Mike Garvin, Charles Glagola, Paul Goodrum, Ahmad Hadavi, Dan Halpin, Jimmie Hinze, Edward Jaselskis, Chuck Jahren, Vineet Kamat, Youg Hoon Kwak, Tai Sik Lee, Kris Mattila, Edward Minchin, Keith Molenaar, Lile Murphee, Feniosky Pena-Mora, David Riley, Boon-Yeol Ryoo, Guillermo Salazar, Cliff Schexnayder, Charles Skipper, Gary Smith, Tony Songer, Lucio Soibelman, Matt Syal, Mike Toole, Ali Touran, Russell Walters, Avi, Wiezel, Tarek Zayed, Yimin, Zha.

Student Attendees:

Alfonso Bastias (University of Colorado), Ioannis Brilakis (University of Illinois), Amr Kandil (University of Illinois), Ahmed Khalafallah (University of Illinois).

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 Spring meeting that was held in Hilton Head, SC on March 27, 2004 were approved.

Nominations for Secretary:

Dulcy Abraham was nominated for the position of CRC secretary by David Riley and was unanimously approved by the membership.

2005 Construction Research Congress Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

The 2005 Construction Research Congress will be held in San Diego, CA, during the period of April 5-7, 2005. Keith reported that the conference received more than 270 abstract and that Iris Tommelein, the Congress Technical Chair, is managing the review of the conference abstracts and papers. More information on the key dates for paper submissions can be found on the conference website at <http://www.constructioninst.org/conferences/crc05/>.

2007 Construction Research Congress Update: Feniosky Pena-Mora reported.

Feniosky Pena-Mora proposed to organize the next 2007 Construction Research Congress in Puerto Rico. He proposed an organizing committee that includes Feniosky Pena-Mora, Liang Liu, Khaled El-Rayes (University of Illinois), Jorge Vanegas (Georgia Tech), Lucio Soibelman (Carnegie Mellon) and Antonio Gonzalez (University of Puerto Rico). The CRC Executive Committee will consider this proposal along with any other proposals from interested CRC members. Feniosky Pena-Mora also announced that the 2005 ASCE International Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering which will be held in Cancun, Mexico during the period of July 12-15, 2005 received more than 300 abstracts. More information on the 2005 ASCE Computing conference and its key dates can be found at <http://www.asce.org/conferences/iccc2005/>.

Academic Committee Update: Tony Songer reported.

Tony reported that the committee was successful in organizing a poster session to give graduate students in construction engineering and management an opportunity to present their research work and interact with CRC members. Four Ph.D. students presented their research in the poster session and eight Ph.D. students submitted their 1-page research summary to the academic committee. These research summaries and the students' CVs will be included in a CV book that will be posted on the CRC website. The committee also sponsored an Academic Educational panel discussion that was held in the afternoon to promote interaction and dialogue between faculty and Ph.D. candidates. An NSF workshop is also planned in conjunction with the Spring CRC meeting and the 2005 ASCE Construction Research Congress in San Diego during the period of April 5-7, 2005. The goal of this workshop is to provide recommendations and guidance for junior faculty who are planning to write NSF CAREER Award proposals. The workshop will focus on scientific research methodologies and the required integration of research and education plans in these proposals.

Marketing Committee Update: Ed Jaselskis reported.

Ed reported that the committee was successful to secure funding to develop an interactive website and database that hosts information on the expertise of construction researchers and scholars. A total funding of \$30,000 was obtained from both NSF (\$15,000) and CI (\$15,000) to develop "A Virtual Community of Construction Scholars". This funding will be used to develop the website and database and maintain them for the first three years, after which the CI may hire students to continue their maintenance. The main objectives of this interactive website are to (1) provide an avenue for the construction industry to learn about academic research and its practical applications; (2) provide an avenue for funding agencies to identify experts in different areas who may serve in a variety of capacities including national committees and peer review activities; (3) promote the formation of virtual teams among researchers and practitioners with similar interests; and (4) promote the exchange of ideas among construction scholars and practitioners.

CRC-CI Liaison Committee Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

Keith reported that the committee the committee was able to have a number of CRC members appointed as CRC representatives in five of the CI directorates. The committee is also working on two specialty publications that will include peer reviewed articles and will focus on innovative highway delivery methods and constructability. The committee received a number of papers and the publications are scheduled for next year.

CI Newsletter CRC Forum Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

The committee continues its work on the CI newsletter which has recently published an interesting article on the history of construction engineering and management by Dan Halpin. CRC members are encouraged to send CI newsletter articles and/or announcements to Tony Songer for next year.

Peurifoy Award: Keith Molenaar reported.

Keith congratulated David Ashley for receiving the Peurifoy Award and encouraged CRC members to submit their nominations for next year Peurifoy award by November 1, 2004.

Construction Institute (CI) Update: Ralph Ellis reported.

Ralph reported that CI membership currently includes 43 construction corporations, and he highlighted 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. Ralph discussed the idea of developing project workshops that can be used to invite construction professionals who are involved in mega project to present ongoing construction opportunities and challenges.

Open Discussion:

Leonard Bernhold discussed the need to enhance the educational system in engineering and construction in order to train students to be more creative and to provide them with the necessary skills for solving complex real-life problems. Leonard encouraged CRC members to contact him if they are interested to participate in this initiative. Dan Halpin discussed another initiative to increase the participation and involvement of the academic community in the Construction Industry Institute (CII). To this end, Dan suggested sponsoring poster sessions to present new research ideas to the CII community and working on initiatives to improve construction education. Dan encouraged CRC members to send him their suggestions on how the academic community can be more involved in CII within several weeks. Cliff Schexnayder discussed the need to improve collaboration between CERF and CRC and suggested selecting a more convenient time for the next Peurifoy award ceremony to promote greater participation of the CRC community in this event.

Faculty Positions

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

- Florida International University
- Iowa State University
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Tech University
- North Dakota State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Penn State University
- University of Florida
- University of Central Florida

New Member Vote

The nominations of Susan Bogus, Larry Chiarelli, and Tarek Zayed were passed unanimously. The CRC Executive Committees welcomes the new members to the Council and encourages them to become involved in CRC committees and activities.

New Initiatives for 2005: Tony Songer reported.

Tony Songer (new chair) outlined his focus for the upcoming year. This included continuing with ongoing initiatives, developing a special publication on leadership in construction engineering and management, creating a special interest group in eroom to enable the posting and sharing of construction case studies and syllabi.

Next Meeting

The Spring CRC Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2005 ASCE Construction Research Congress in Bahia Resort Hotel, San Diego, CA, during the period of April 5-7, 2005. 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.constructioninst.org/conferences/crc05/>

Exchange of the Gavel

Keith Molenaar passed the chairmanship of the CRC to Tony Songer who outlined his focus for the upcoming year. Ed Jaselskis presented a plaque of appreciation for service to CRC to Keith Molenaar for his hard work and dedication as 2003 CRC chair.

Adjourn

Keith Molenaar adjourned the meeting.