

Construction Research Council Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2005
San Diego, California

Attendees:

Yassir AbdelRazig, Simaan AbouRizk, Dulcy Abraham, Mohamed Al-Hussein, Yong Bai, Susan Bogus, Ralph Ellis, Christine Fiori, Mohamed El-Gafy, Khaled El-Rayes, John Gambatese, Angela Guggemos, Makarand (Mark) Hastak, Michael Horman, Arpad Horvath, Gunnar Lucko, Julio Martinez, John Messner, Edward Minchin, Keith Molenaar, Feniosky Pena-Mora, Ronie Navon, Clark B. Pace, Ihab Saad, Tariq Shehab, Eric Showalter, Tony Sanger, Iris Tommelein, Mike Toole, Ali Touran, Ken Walsh, Tarek Zayed,

Student Attendees:

Thais Alves (University of California, Berkeley), Alfonso Bastias (University of Colorado, Boulder), Andrew Bates (Polytechnic University), Ioannis Brilakis (University of Illinois), Amr Ahmad Kandil (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), SangHyan Lee (M.I.T.) Cindy Menches (University of Wisconsin), Colin Milberg (University of California, Berkeley), Ivan Mutis (University of Florida), Sathy Rajendran (Oregon State University), Jennifer Shane (University of Colorado, Boulder), Jennifer Stokes (University of California, Berkeley), Jochen Teizer (University of Texas-Austin), Pedro Santos Vieira (University of California, Berkeley)

Tony Songer chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Tony Songer called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He then introduced Hilary Koehl from the Construction Institute. All participants introduced themselves and their affiliation.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the CRC Spring meeting that was held in Baltimore, Maryland on October 22, 2004 were approved.

2005 Construction Research Congress Update: Iris Tommelein reported.

The 2005 Construction Research Congress held in San Diego, CA, during the period of April 5-7, 2005, was very well attended. Iris Tommelein, the Technical Chair managed the review of the conference abstracts and papers. The CD with the papers will be mailed by ASCE to those who registered for the conference. Three papers received Best Paper Awards. The assistance provided by twelve graduate students in bringing projectors and setup at different sessions, was acknowledged. This was a win-win situation for the students as well as the conference organizers since it reduced the costs and also provided a mechanism for students to attend the conference at a reduced fee.

Both Ken Walsh and Iris Tommelein listed concerns with the online database used for uploading papers and the lack of IT support from ASCE. There was a 100% staff turnover at ASCE leading to difficulties in maintaining continuous liaisons between ASCE and the conference organizers. The new CI contact is John Durant. CRC will prepare a letter to the Executive Board of the Construction Institute listing these concerns. Ralph Ellis will present this letter to the CI Board and discuss these issues with them in greater detail.

Academic Committee Update: Khaled El-Rayes and Feniosky Pena-Mora reported

Khaled reported that the academic 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. Eleven (11) Ph.D. students presented their research at the poster session immediately preceding the CRC Spring meeting in San Diego. Research summaries and curriculum vitae of doctoral students will be compiled in a CV book and will be posted on the CRC website by December 2005.

The academic committee sponsored the NSF Career Proposal Preparation Workshop held on the second day of the Construction Research Congress. Seventy junior faculty members applied to attend the workshop and forty applicants were accepted. Fifteen applicants received support from NSF, the remainder were supported by their home institutions. The presentations on Scientific Research Methodologies and Integration of Research and Education Plans in Career Proposals were very well received. It was proposed that the academic committee will organize a workshop on Validation of Research Outcomes, at a future CRC meeting.

Marketing Committee Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

Keith 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 first draft of the website will be prepared by students and will be available to the CRC membership by August 2005.

A marketing brochure is under development. This brochure describes the value of construction research. Suggestions for a CRC logo can be sent to Keith Molenaar (keith.molenaar@colorado.edu). Keith will forward the suggestions to the Marketing Committee.

A mechanism to provide associate membership in CRC to doctoral students is under discussion.

CRC-CI Liaison Committee Update: Keith Molenaar reported.

The committee is working on three specialty publications that will include peer reviewed articles in the areas of constructability, project delivery and leadership and management.

The CI Newsletter publishes short excerpts of research projects undertaken by the CRC members. Please send such descriptions (300 words) to Hilary Koehl (hkoehl@asce.org)

Construction Institute (CI) Update: Ralph Ellis reported.

Ralph is the only academic on the CI Board. He reported that CI membership currently includes 43 construction corporations. Ralph will present the issues/challenges faced by the organizing committee of the 2005 CRC Construction Research Congress. He will also discuss the mechanism for doctoral student membership in the CRC.

Peurifoy Award: Keith Molenaar reported.

Dr. Abraham Warszawski, Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the National Building at the Technion, Israel, is the recipient of the 2005 Peurifoy Award. He is recognized for his outstanding contributions in the area of automation in the building industry.

The deadline for receiving nominations for the 2006 Peurifoy Award is November 1, 2005.

Faculty Positions

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

- University of Missouri – Rolla (endowed position)
- San Diego State University
- University of Washington
- Brooklyn Polytechnic
- Arizona State University (Director – Del E. Webb School)
- Purdue University (Head – Division of Construction Engineering and Management)

New Member Vote

The nominations of Yassir Abdel-Razig, Mohamed Al-Hussein, Yong Bai, Angela Acree Guggemos and Gunnar Lucko, 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.

Fall 2005 CRC Meeting

Traditionally, the Fall CRC meetings were conducted in conjunction with ASCE's Annual Meeting. The Peurifoy Lecture and Award have been traditionally presented at the Fall CRC Meetings

Starting in 2005, ASCE will focus on Specialty conferences and will not have an Annual Meeting. Suggestions for venues for the Fall 2005 CRC meeting include:

- Regional Conference hosted by one of the CRC schools – with focus on doctoral student presentations
- One-two day meeting in Washington DC
- Link to regional ASCE Specialty conference or ASCE Mega Projects Conference
- Virtual meeting
- Combined conference with ASC

The CRC EXCOM will discuss these options and will convey details of the next CRC meeting to the CRC membership via email.

Other Items

Julio Martinez put forth a proposal that the CRC initiate a simulation and modeling competition/award for students in recognition of Professor Daniel Halpin who would be retiring this year. The CRC unanimously approved to go ahead with this initiative. Julio Martinez will take the lead on this initiative and will be assisted by Simaan Abou-Rizk and others. Ralph will discuss this award/competition with the Executive Committee.

Adjourn

Tony Songer adjourned the meeting.