

USUCGER Board Meeting Agenda
7pm, January 13, 2002
Harding Room
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC

Attended: Jean Louis Briaud; Susan Burns; Deborah Goodings; Kyle Rollins
Absent: Ahmed Elgamal; Barbara Luke; Paul Mayne; Chuck Shackelford

1. Accounts

- Treasurer's report – Barbara Luke submitted this electronically. Present balance: \$ 9,954.01. Dues are being collected; \$4050 received to date. Uboard members to pursue slow payers by telephone starting March 15.
- Meeting travel expenses: No travel expenses requested for this meeting
- Budget planning – anticipated expenses this year
 - USUCGER Hospitality suite: \$1200 this year
 - Copies of abstracts distributed at TRB session to be reimbursed to Deborah Goodings -- \$185
 - Website and email maintenance funds to Boris Jeremic to be formalized¹.
 - GeoCouncil fees if remaining with GeoCouncil: \$500/year.
 - Deborah Goodings' travel to GeoCouncil Meeting Feb 12 <\$250².
 - Travel (fall 2002) for next USUCGER Board meeting to set up 2003 workshop.
 - Possible student support supplement to Barbara Luke, treasurer, as USUCGER 2003 workshop draws closer and accounting work increases.

2. Assessment of TRB/USUCGER new PhD session and hospitality suite

- Eight recent or about to graduate geotechnical PhD's presented; presentations were good quality and more uniform than last year. Forty attendees.
- Plan to continue sessions for 2 more years (2003 and 2004) and then assess if there is a useful goal being achieved.
- Deborah Goodings would like to step away from this organizational task, and hand it over to some other Uboard member or other USUCGER member

¹ Arrangements formalized in March 2002: \$1500 per year due for 2000 and 2001; \$1000 per year (in two \$500 payments) to be paid for 2002 and 2003; webmaster's institution's annual USUCGER fees to be waived. Transition to next webmaster to begin summer 2003, and be complete January 2004.

² Change in GeoCouncil meeting schedule made it impossible for a Uboard member to attend; no travel charge.

- Deborah Goodings has requested that TRB allow us to move the session from a Sunday Workshop to a regular session on Monday or Tuesday to increase attendance.
- Jean-Louis Briaud organized the TRB USUCGER hospitality suite, moving it to the Marriott mezzanine (no room/location cost). Expenses within \$1200 budget. Approximately 50 to 60 attended. Very successful and collegial.

3. Institution of USUCGER Advisory Board of past presidents and other formal advisors

- Dick Woods; Tony Saada; Tuncer Edil; Frank Townsend; Tom Zimmie; Mehmet Tumay; Paul Mayne; Mike O'Neill have agreed to serve on this Advisory Board; other past presidents will be added as they leave UBoard.

4. Routine changes in UBoard

- Next election: Spring 2002
- Kyle Rollins and Ahmet Elgamal to rotate off UBoard after the 2002 election; Paul Mayne moves from past president to USUCGER Advisory Board
- Nominating committee headed by Frank Townsend.
- Schedule: Nominating Committee to have nominations of junior faculty candidate(s) (< 11 years since PhD), and senior faculty ready at beginning of March, prepared in accordance with USUCGER By-Laws. Call for nominations from membership by mid-March. Election held in April. Chuck Shackelford (secretary) to run election.

5. USUCGER email list and its use

- Email list and website is essential service of USUCGER
- UBoard reaffirmed its policy on non-commercialization of the e-mail list
- Jean-Louis Briaud will communicate suggestions from members for changes to website by Boris Jeremic, webmaster.
- Deborah Goodings will reply through email regarding improper use of email

6. Awards

- Current awards
 - Distinguished Educator Award, instituted this year for educational contributions to USUCGER, to be awarded to David Elton at the February Conference in Orlando by Jean-Louis Briaud representing USUCGER
 - Reviewed existing award descriptions. Will post award descriptions^{3,4,5} and past recipients on USUCGER website. Will

³ USUCGER Distinguished Service Award: This award shall be awarded by the USUCGER Board, and at their discretion, every third year to an affiliate of a USUCGER-member institution who has given distinguished service to

formalize process, engaging membership by inviting nominations from members starting next year. Each award to be given once every three years, at discretion of UBoard.

Susan Burns to continue organizing award selection process.

- Institution of other USUCGER awards
 - UBoard discussed instituting awards recognizing research accomplishments and decided not to move into research assessment with awards at present
- Prakash Award– Rix nomination submitted from USUCGER
- Deborah Goodings will approach GeolInstitute to discuss ways to strengthen USUCGER influence on their award selection process.

7. **Workshop planning --**

- Workshop location and dates discussed – Fall 2003, maybe October, over a Thursday, Friday, Saturday to minimize interference with teaching. Location possibilities discussed (Las Vegas; Denver; Salt Lake City; Atlanta; Chicago; Orlando) with intention of selecting a central, easily and economically accessible location. Ideally should have UBoard member resident close by.
- Update on letter of intent to NSF for their support. Kyle Rollins reviewed the letter he composed for this purpose. Funding request at \$75,000 to cover same items as covered in 1998 workshop, including USUCGER member travel subsidy. Jean Louis Briaud to head up workshop organization.
- To be determined at next UBoard meeting:
 - Identification of workshop topics to be covered
 - Format
 - Speakers/other guests

8. **Issues for discussion at the GeoCouncil Meeting**

- Possible disintegration of GeoCouncil, with potential pullout of GeolInstitute, ADSC, and ASFE.

9. **Other initiatives:**

USUCGER. The Board will announce a call for nominations from member institutions one month before the decision is made in March.

⁴ USUCGER Research Investment Award: This award shall be awarded by the USUCGER Board, and at their discretion, every third year. The essential criterion will be significant but broad contributions to geotechnical research, rather than of a specific research accomplishment. The recipient may or may not be an affiliate of a USUCGER-member institution. The Board will announce a call for nominations from member institutions one month before the decision is made in March.

⁵ USUCGER Distinguished Educator Award: This award shall be awarded by the USUCGER Board, and at their discretion, every third year to an affiliate of a USUCGER-member institution who has provided educational services to the USUCGER community. The definition of education is broad and is intended to include all aspects of educational activity as it relates to and enhances the education and educational abilities of affiliates of USUCGER-member institutions. The Board will announce a call for nominations from member institutions one month before the decision is made in March.

- Status of Jean Louis Briaud's Research Do's and Don't's: Now completed. Jean Louis Briaud to announce its completion and request posting on USUCGER website
- Revisiting the "E is for Education" question. Acknowledged that education and research are inextricably linked. Acknowledged that ASCE and ASEE have strong commitment already to education, but that their mission is not focussed on geotechnical engineering education. USUCGER will consider what education initiatives it can practically undertake. Discussion possible with GeolInstitute for coordinated effort and pooling of resources.

10. Meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting to be held in fall 2002, to focus on 2003 workshop organization.