

Minutes of USUCGER Board Meeting
Hampton Inn at Denver International Airport
June 26, 2002

Members Present:

Pedro Arduino
Jean-Louis Briaud
Susan Burns
Dave Elton
Deborah Goodings, Chair
Barbara Luke
Chuck Shackelford

Members Absent:

Boris Jeremic

The meeting commenced at 9:35 AM. The meeting agenda appears at the end of these minutes.

- Barbara Luke, USUCGER Treasurer, indicated that the account balance is \$19,898 , with the majority of these funds resulting from the recent two-year membership dues solicitation. USUCGER membership now includes 89 US academic institutions, with 13 additional US academic institutions being identified as not responding to the solicitation. Board members volunteered to contact these non-member institutions to let the institution know that either the membership dues must be forthcoming within a reasonable period (≤ 2 months), or the institution would be removed from the membership list. The list of current non-member institutions with the corresponding Board member who is responsible for contacting the institution is as follows:

Institution	Responsible Board Member¹
Bradley	Arduino
Catholic	NA
Cincinnati	NA
Colorado (Denver)	Shackelford
Manhattan College	Goodings
Massachusetts (Amherst)	Luke
Nebraska (Lincoln)	Briaud
New Mexico	Shackelford
Northwestern	Shackelford
Ohio State	Burns
SIU (Carbondale)	Elton
Syracuse	Burns
Wisconsin (Milwaukee)	Goodings

¹ NA = not applicable because institution no longer has a geotechnical program, or institution already specifically indicated not to renew membership

- Deborah Goodings raised the issue of how to include principally undergraduate institutions (PUIs) as defined by NSF in the membership of USUCGER. Apparently, there are ~ 200 PUIs, with a smaller subset of these PUIs conducting some limited research funded by NSF. The discussion focused on how to facilitate including these PUIs given that the PUIs may not have sufficient funds to support USUCGER membership. Some consideration was given to encouraging PUIs to be members by allowing reduced memberships dues, although it was noted that at least three PUIs (Lafayette, Bucknell, and Rose-Hulman) were already paying membership dues at the standard rate. The consensus of the Board was that the membership dues should be the same as the current dues (i.e., \$100/2 yrs for programs with 1-2 member faculty), and that rather than trying to contact all 200 PUIs, the board decided to focus only on those PUIs that have some research funding in geotechnical or geoenvironmental engineering from NSF. Chuck Shackelford volunteered to contact Rick Fragaszy at NSF to see if Rick could provide the list of PUIs that have received research support by NSF. Members on this list would be contacted by Board members to inquire as to their interest in becoming USUCGER members. Barbara Luke independently volunteered to contact the U. of North Florida about USUCGER membership.
- The meeting discussion now focused on how to distinguish between paying members versus non-paying members. Jean-Louis Briaud suggested establishing a separate category of membership for non-academic institutions (e.g., government agencies, consulting companies, etc.) and non-US academic institutions, neither category of which is eligible to join USUCGER. The members in this category would be referred to as Associate Members of USUCGER. The Associate Members are not voting members, but do not have to pay membership dues and can still have access to USUCGER e-mailing privileges, whereas there was discussion that eligible US academic institutions that are not paying USUCGER dues would have e-mailing privileges revoked; this would mean they neither would receive e-mail sent to all@usucger.org, nor be able to send to all@usucger.org. A potential Associate Member would have to apply for affiliation and inclusion on the website by contacting the USUCGER President. These policies will be posted on the USUCGER website. Barbara Luke will have her undergraduate student worker match the membership list against the existing e-mail list, and then would inform Boris Jeremic of the e-mail addresses for which USUCGER e-mailing privileges are to be revoked. Barbara Luke was allocated \$500 to pay her student worker for these and other related services.
- The next agenda item pertained to USUCGER e-mail privileges. The Board voted to control use of e-mail privileges. The situation that occurred last year regarding Texas A & M U. was cited as reason for the need to control e-mail usage. The discussion centered on the need to warn offenders that misuse of the USUCGER e-mail list could result in revocation of e-mail privileges at the discretion of the USUCGER Board. Susan Burns volunteered to review the existing USUCGER policy on misuse of the USUCGER e-mail, and draft a warning comment to be added to the e-mail use policy. Susan Burns also volunteered to take over the website maintenance when Boris Jeremic steps down. Deborah Goodings will discuss with Boris the possibility of implementing a filter on all@usucger.org that permits only members and associates to send to that address.
- Deborah Goodings provided an overview of the new PhD forums that USUCGER has sponsored at each of the previous two annual TRB meetings in Washington, D. C. She also indicated that she did not want to organize the next forum, although she thought the effort was both successful and beneficial to USUCGER. The Board agreed that the forum should be

continued, and allocated \$1000 to fund the post-forum reception. Pedro Arduino volunteered to organize the next forum, although he must first try to join a TRB committee, since membership in a TRB committee is required for affiliation with the TRB conference. Deborah Goodings will assist him in this regard. Jean-Louis Briaud agreed to organize the post-forum reception.

- Jean-Louis Briaud suggested that the way to involve USUCGER members is to create USUCGER committees. He suggested USUCGER begin with two committees: one on research and one on teaching, both of which would consist of USUCGER members and associate members. The Board thought the concept was good, but expressed some concerns about the viability of the committee and the ability of USUCGER to provide financial support for the operation of the committees. The Board decided that the best approach was to form two task forces, one for each committee, of approximately three people each to evaluate the potential impact and effectiveness of such committees. Several names of potential task force members were identified. Jean-Louis agreed to contact these people to ascertain their willingness to serve in this capacity. Task force members will all be USUCGER members, although they will be encouraged to discuss issues with those outside the USUCGER membership. The recommendations of the task force will be a subject of discussion at the USUCGER Workshop planned for 2003.
- Deborah Goodings raised the possibility of USUCGER applying to NSF for funding to distribute to institutions wishing to support undergraduates participating in geotechnical research, or in teacher training programs, along the lines of NSF REU or RET programs, which are reserved for PIs with active NSF funding. She will discuss this possibility with Rick Fragaszy.
- A brief discussion ensued about USUCGER's membership in the Geo-Council, which apparently has been renewed without USUCGER paying the membership dues. The Board expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Geo-Council relative to the required \$500 membership dues. The consensus of the Board was that the Board would review membership in the Geo-Council after the results of a special Geo-Council task force, formed to evaluate the objectives and guidelines of the Geo-Council, are known.
- The remaining time (~ 2 hrs) was spent discussing the next USUCGER workshop. A tentative date of October 2003 was decided as desirable, pending conflicts with other conferences. Dave Elton agreed to check on potential conflicts. The Board also agreed that a two-day workshop is desired, with the workshop being held on a Thursday and Friday. Based primarily on a cost comparison performed by Deborah Goodings of the lowest air fares to several potential sites, LasVegas was chosen as the desired site for the workshop, with Barbara Luke of UNLV serving as the local contact person. Barbara also indicated that Michelle Baker of UNLV could be hired as the conference organizer, and that Ron Lynn could be contacted as a dessert speaker for the dinner. The majority of the remaining discussion was focused on the workshop content. Pedro Arduino will contact Alison Flatau or some other workshop organizer at NSF to get their recommendations on workshop organization and schedule. It was suggested that senior PhD students may be permitted to attend and participate in this USUCGER workshop, to educate them in faculty issues. They may be permitted to display research posters at coffee breaks and receptions. A tentative agenda for the workshop is attached. Dave Elton agreed to draft a letter of intent for potential funding by NSF. If NSF funding is not forthcoming, the Board would revisit possible alternative funding possibilities.

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Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM

Charles D. Shackelford
Charles D. Shackelford, Secretary

Attachment: Tentative USUCGER Workshop Agenda

Wednesday:

6:00 – 10:00 PM Registration and reception (cash bar)

Thursday (1st Day):

8:00 – 8:30 AM Introductions and Announcements
8:30 – 10:00 AM What Geotechnical Research is Needed
10:00 – 10:30 AM Break
10:30 – 12:00 PM Group Breakouts on Research in Technical Topics (e.g.,
geoenvironmental, earthquake engineering, foundations, in situ
testing, geosynthetics, slopes and walls, unsaturated soils,
modeling)
12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 PM Breakout Group Summaries and Discussion
3:00-3:30 PM Break
3:30 – 5:00 PM University Presentations on their Research (2 parallel sessions; 5-
min/university)
5:00-6:30 PM Break and Graduate Student poster session
6:30-7:30 PM Pre-dinner Reception (cash bar)
7:30-8:30 PM Dinner

Friday(2nd Day):

8:00 – 8:30 AM USUCGER Business and announcements (Goodings)
8:30 – 10:00 AM Exotic Geotechnical Research
10:00 – 10:30 AM Break
10:30 – 12:00 PM Group Breakouts on Research-Related Topics (graduate student
recruiting, navigating graduate school, cultivating graduate student
success, research collaboration, finding funding, navigating tenure
and promotion, beyond research and teaching, undergraduate
geotech curriculum, graduate geotech curriculum, service learning)
12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 PM Breakout Group Summaries and Discussion
3:00-3:30 PM Break
3:30 – 5:00 PM University Presentations on their Research (2 parallel sessions; 5-
min/university)
5:00 – 5:30 PM Closure

**USUCGER Draft Board Meeting Agenda
Hampton Inn Denver Int Airport,
6290 Tower Rd., Denver, CO
9:30 am, June 26, 2002**

1. USUCGER treasurer's report on funds and membership
 - Q: different fee structure for PUI's
 - Q: distinguishing between paying members and free- loaders
2. USUCGER website – possible changes
 - restricting use; controlling access
3. USUCGER TRB new PhD forum
 - Whether to continue
 - New organizer
4. USUCGER Committees
 - a. Research
 - Terms of reference
 - Chair
 - Support
 - administering REU's to non-NSF recipients
 - b. Education
 - initiative with Geoinstitute or alone (please read report on previous task force on an education liaison with Geo-Institute at <http://www.usucger.org/index.html>)
 - Terms of reference
 - Support
 - Areas to consider
 - administering REU's to non-NSF recipients
 - k-12
 - undergrad
 - grad
 - practitioners
 - general public
5. Workshop 2003
 - Date -- suggested: October, 2003
 - Location
 - requirements: low cost airfare, and accommodation; easily accessed; centrally located
 - possibilities**:
 - Denver

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- Las Vegas
- Salt Lake City
- Atlanta
- Miami
- Professional conference organizer
- Target attendees
- Sessions (see below)
- Agenda
- Speakers and panelists
- Attendee presentations
- Request for NSF funds to subsidize
- Other funding sources

**** Consider the following sampling of airfares from 3 major cities, to 5 potentially low cost hubs for our Workshop.**

Sample airfares for Oct 24 – Oct 27, 2002 from expedia.com for large airlines (collected June 18, 2002)

Destination	Cost from Origin			Sum	Sum/3
	Wash DC	LA	Chicago		
Denver	209	400	238	847	282
Las Vegas	218	105	268	591	197
Salt Lake City	390	174	386	950	317
Atlanta	198	411	206	815	272
Miami	240	480	235	955	318
Sum	1255	1200	1333		
Sum/5	251	240	267		

2003 USUCGER workshop session possibilities:

Research presentations (as at last wkshop)

Presentations by some students

Topics for session consideration:

- a. Identifying key issues in geotechnical engineering research, and our pieces of the high visibility (highly funded) areas of research
- b. Changing role of USUCGER
 - Needs and expectations of members
 - Role in geotechnical education
 - On its own
 - In cooperation with GeolInstitute
 - Committees – Research; Education
- c. Successful graduate student recruiting techniques
 - REU experiences
 - Pre-applications
 - PUI's (Principally Undergrad Inst's)
 - Screening/developing applicants from abroad
- d. Techniques for cultivating graduate student success
 - Research expertise transfer
 - Role of post-docs
 - Research supervision
 - Understanding cultural diversity and using it to your advantage
 - Preparing students for jobs after graduation
- e. Research collaboration
 - Collaboration with non-academics – researchers and non-researchers
 - Collaboration with other academics – US and foreign; same discipline and cross-discipline; with other research institutions and undergrad institutions
 - Using lab facilities at other institutions – visiting and remote access
 - Research exchanges and training of faculty and students
- f. Finding the money
 - Understanding and exploiting research opportunities from traditional sources
 - Research do's and don't's
 - Getting the fullest support from your own institution
 - Looking for funding from non-traditional sources
- g. Navigating tenure and promotion
 - How to interpret what is required for academic success

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- How to meet those expectations
 - How to assemble a successful tenure or promotion package
 - Getting along with/getting the most out of/serving one's colleagues
 - Getting/providing proper mentoring
- h. Opportunities other than research and teaching
- Positioning oneself for academic administration
 - Consulting; patents
 - Opportunities outside the university
 - Public service/public policy
 - Moving research into practice