

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
JULY 7, 2003**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean-Louis Briaud-President, Deborah Goodings, Susan Burns, Dave Elton, Barbara Luke and Sarah Gassman

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carlos Santamarina

**MEETING COMMENCED AT 2:00 P.M. CST.**

**1. BOARD ORGANIZATION**

Jean-Louis Briaud proposed the following responsibilities for the Board members in 2003-2004:

Susan Burns, President Elect

Sarah Gassman, Secretary

Deborah Goodings, Past President and Special Advisor to the President

Barbara Luke, Treasurer

David Elton, Workshop Chair and Education Committee Liaison

Carlos Santamarina, Research Committee Liaison and Special Projects

The Board unanimously approved the proposed organization.

**2. RESULTS OF RECENT MEMBER VOTES:**

49 valid votes were received (~50% of membership)

**Starting the USUCGER Education Committee:** 48 Yes, 1 No

**Starting the USUCGER Research Committee:** 47 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain

**USUCGER stands for United States University Council on Geotechnical Education (instead of Engineering) and Research:** 46 Yes, 3 No

Dave Elton, convener for the education committee, and Carlos Santamarina, convener for the research committee, will organize inaugural meetings of each committee at the October USUCGER workshop in Atlanta. During the first meeting, the terms of reference of the committee will be established by the members and a chair will be chosen. Members interested in serving on the committees, or interested in nominating someone to serve on the committees, should contact Dave and/or Carlos. The Board also suggested to form "Friends of the Committees" as a way for persons outside of USUCGER to provide input.

**3. DFI INITIATIVE**

Jean-Louis Briaud reported that the Deep Foundations Institute is interested in pursuing a mutually beneficial affiliation with USUCGER and would like to get more academic participation in both its organization and industry. The Board responded positively to pursuing this affiliation and suggested drafting a "memo of understanding" to outline the terms of the affiliation. Affiliations with other organizations may be pursued as well.

#### **4. ATLANTA WORKSHOP**

Dave Elton reported on the status of the USUCGER Workshop scheduled for October 1-3 in Atlanta. A proposal requesting funds for the workshop was submitted to NSF and is still under review. Jean-Louis Briaud will contact NSF to inquire about the status.

#### **5. YEARLY MEETINGS CONCEPT**

Jean-Louis Briaud proposed that USUCGER plan to organize yearly meetings. The idea of having yearly USUCGER meetings, perhaps in coordination with the GI conference, was discussed but no decision was taken by the Board. The sense is that it may be time for a mature organization such as USUCGER to hold yearly meetings for several reasons including the yearly meeting of the two committees who would likely propose sessions. If the Board votes positively on such action, the membership will then be asked to vote.

#### **6. GEOACTIVITY**

At the request of the Geo-Institute, Barbara Luke and Dave Elton are working with Jorge Zornberg, Frank Townsend, Kevin Sutterer and Erik Loehr to develop an approved set of instructions for a “GeoActivity” for ASCE students. This work will formalize a geotechnical design competition for ASCE student chapter competitions, similar to the steel bridge and concrete canoe competitions. The competition will require students to design and construct a mechanically stabilized earth wall in a box.

#### **7. DUES**

Barbara Luke will request membership dues in August. Dues will be collected for a 2 year period.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:15 P.M. CST**