

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
NOVEMBER 04, 2004**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean-Louis Briaud-President, David Elton, Susan Burns, Sarah Gassman, Carlos Santamarina, and Russell Green

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: (Stephen Dickenson – absent from conference call, but e-mailed comments/views on some agenda items to Jean-Louis Briaud prior to the conference call; in turn, Jean-Louis forwarded Steve's e-mail to the rest of the Board.)

MEETING COMMENCED AT 1:00 P.M. CST.

1. REPORT ON USUCGER RESEARCH INVESTMENT AWARD CEREMONY

Jean-Louis Briaud reported on the presentation ceremony and dinner of the 2004 USUCGER Research Investment Award to Mr. Albert DiMillio at the ASCE National Convention in Baltimore, MD. Susan Burns posted the announcement of the presentation of the award on the USUCGER website. The cost of the award and dinner totaled approximately \$450, which is being donated to USUCGER by Jean-Louis Briaud.

2. FREQUENCY OF THE ISSUANCE OF USUCGER AWARDS

The inception of the USUCGER Distinguished Researcher Award, the fourth USUCGER award, caused the Board to revisit the frequency at which the various USUCGER awards are given. After discussing, the following schedule was agreed upon:

- 2005: Distinguished Researcher Award
- 2006: Distinguished Educator Award
- 2007: Distinguished Service Award
- 2007: Distinguished Investment Award

This schedule allows an award to be given to a USUCGER member every year at a major geotechnical conference or event, with the distinguished investment award going to a non-USUCGER member every third year (or as deemed appropriate by the Board).

3. NEXT USUCGER CONFERENCE (ATLANTA 2006)

The 2006 USUCGER conference will be run in conjunction with the 2006 Geo-Institute conference in Atlanta, GA. Susan Burns and Carlos Santamarina agreed to take the lead in coordinating the organization of the 2006 USUCGER conference with David Frost, who is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 2006 Geo-Institute conference. The USUCGER portion of the conference is expected to be about one day.

4. REPORT ON INDUSTRY RESEARCH WEBPAGES

Jean-Louis Briaud reported the following status of the "industry research webpages":

- ADSC Board approved creation of the industry research webpage and development of the webpage is progressing.

- DFI also agreed to the creation of an industry research webpage, but the development of the webpage is not progressing as fast as ADSC's.
- Jean-Louis Briaud has not heard back from John Bachner regarding the development of the ASFE webpage.

5. G-I REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Arlan Rippe, President of Geo-Institute, proposed a formal agreement of cooperation be written between USUCGER and the Geo-Institute. The Board embraced the idea of cooperation between the two associations. However, there was uncertainty among the Board members as to the need for a formal written agreement, particularly because its purpose is somewhat of a duplication of the mission of the GeoCouncil (i.e., fostering cooperation and coordination efforts in the geotechnology arena).

6. FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

There was a proposal to add a line to the membership dues form to allow people to donate money to USUCGER. It was generally agreed that the Board would have to clearly determine how the donated money would be used before embarking on such a fund raising campaign. The idea was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

7. NEW IDEAS, PROJECTS, BUDGET

1. Undergraduate Curriculum: Concern was raised about a trend among Civil Engineering Departments in the US wherein the requirement of an undergraduate class in geotechnical engineering to obtain a BSCE is being removed. The Board thought that this issue should be discussed by the USUCGER Education Committee; Carlos Santamarina will contact Beena Sukuraman, Education Committee Chair, to discuss this issue further.
2. GeoChallenge: David Elton will contact Mary Roth about distributing the new rules for the GeoChallenge to the USUCGER membership.
3. Funding Summary: Carlos Santamarina will contact Rick Fragaszy to ask if it is possible for Rick to write a one-to-two page summary of potential geotechnical funding for geotechnical research at NSF. This summary would complement the e-mails that Rick sends about various specific funding avenues.

8. BOARD MEMBER TERMS; BRIAUD NEXT YEAR

1. David Elton's tenure as a USUCGER Board Member finishes next year. An election committee will need to be formed around March to identify potential candidates for the vacancy.
2. Jean-Louis Briaud asked if he could be relieved of the duties as USUCGER Past-President next year. The reason for this is the significant time requirements of his new position on the Board of the Geo-Institute. The other USUCGER Board Members encouraged Jean-Louis not to relinquish the duties of Past-President, as they should not be that demanding and his knowledge/experience significantly contributes to the governance of USUCGER.

9. UPDATE BYLAWS TO REFLECT DUES CHANGES

Sarah Gassman and Susan Burns will draft changes to Article III, Section 3 regarding the voting rights of the various membership grades. The impetus for the re-writing of the bylaws was the change in the terminology of the membership grades enacted with the new dues structure. Sarah will bring the draft changes to the next Board meeting at GeoFrontiers.

10. TASK FORCE ON LOBBYING

During the last Board meeting, Stephen Dickenson brought up the idea of USUCGER initiating lobbying efforts to increase geotechnical research funding. The other members of the Board expressed interest in the idea, but were uncertain as how to proceed, etc. During this meeting the idea was raised again, and again the Board Members expressed interest. Jean-Louis Briaud felt that the idea was significant enough to warrant an entire meeting to discuss the idea in depth, rather than it being just one of several agenda items. Jean-Louis agreed to ask Steve to write a one-to-two page outline of his ideas, to include the scope, objectives, timeline, etc.

11. AND 12. TRB SESSION AND RECEPTION

1. TRB Session: Sarah Gassman has done all the work organizing the TRB Session. Jean-Louis Briaud will be the session chair, which is being held in the McKinley Room.
2. TRB Reception: The planed location of reception is in the mezzanine, but Sarah Gassman will send Jean-Louis an e-mail once the location is confirmed.

12. GEO-COUNCIL FEES

Jean-Louis Briaud sent an e-mail to Board members on August 24 calling for a vote regarding payment of the annual dues (\$100) for USUCGER to the GeoCouncil. Jean-Louis reported the results of the vote (3-yes; 1-no).

13. NEXT MEETING: GEOFRONTIERS

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2005 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the GeoFrontiers conference, with the USUCGER general meeting being later the same day from 7:30 to 8:30pm. Susan Burns and David Elton will be unable to attend the meeting (Susan is willing to attend via tele-presence). The Board members will be reimbursed for airfare and the cost of the hotel for two nights.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:46 P.M. CST