

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
AUGUST 29, 2005**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Burns-President, Jean-Louis Briaud-Past President, Sarah Gassman-Treasurer, Russell Green-Secretary, Steve Dickenson, and Carlos Santamarina

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anand Puppala

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

**1. PROPOSAL FOR USUCGER TO CO-SPONSOR CASE HISTORIES CONFERENCE**

There was a request from Professor Shamsheer Prakash for USUCGER to co-sponsor the next conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering. There was a general discussion among the Board members about whether USUCGER should be involved in co-sponsoring conferences; USUCGER has co-sponsored conferences in the past. In such cases USUCGER provided a link on its website to the conference homepage and was listed as a co-sponsor on the conference flyer; there was no monetary cost for USUCGER's co-sponsorship. In exchange, USUCGER was provided with one free conference registration and was allowed to set up a booth. In general the Board thought that the co-sponsorships were good advertisement for USUCGER, particularly to people from industry who may not have heard of USUCGER before.

A vote was taken regarding whether USUCGER should co-sponsor the Case Histories conference or not; the result was 5-to-1 in favor of USUCGER co-sponsoring conference. However, more information is needed from Professor Prakash regarding whether USUCGER will be given one free registration and allowed to setup a booth.

**2. RULE REGARDING MULTI-POSTINGS OF THE SAME ANNOUNCEMENT TO USUCGER E-MAIL LIST**

Several USUCGER members have complained about receiving multiple e-mails for the same announcement. President Susan Burns will contact the sender of the e-mails and request that only one e-mail per announcement be sent in the future.

**3. NSF REORGANIZATION**

There was a general discussion about the NSF reorganization and its implications on geotechnical research funding levels. It was generally agreed that the reorganization was not going to be good for civil engineering as a whole, nor geotechnical engineering specifically. USUCGER is too small (both in size and budget) to be able to have any sort of influence on the reorganization. However, USUCGER may be effective by collaborating with other organizations such as the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and ASCE's Geo-Institute. Persons for the Board to contact regarding potential collaborations include: Professor Juan Pestana, former NSF program manager;

Professor Tom O'Rourke, President of EERI; Arlan Rippe, President of the Geo-Institute; and Dr. Bill Marcuson, President-Elect of ASCE.

#### **4. USUCGER "LOBBYING FOR GEOTECHNICAL RESEARCH FUNDING" WORKSHOP**

The "Lobbying for Geotechnical Research Funding" workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2006, in Atlanta, GA, immediately preceding the 2006 Atlanta GeoCongress. After a series of presentation, there will be a round-table discussion. Currently, the panelists include: Jim Jensen, National Academies; Brian Pallasch, ASCE Director of Government Relations; Patti Bartlett, Georgia Tech, Washington Representative; and Steve Dickenson, Oregon State University and UBoard Member. Additionally, Wayne Clough, President of Georgia Tech may also be a panelist. The workshop will be announced in the Atlanta GeoCongress flyer, and additionally, an e-mail flyer will be sent out to USUCGER members.

#### **5. USUCGER PhD WORKSHOP**

The USUCGER PhD workshop will be held from 1:00pm to 4:30pm on Sunday, February 26, 2006, in Atlanta, GA, immediately preceding the start of the 2006 Atlanta GeoCongress. To date, only 4 applicants have requested to present at the workshop; 8 to 9 applications were typical in past workshops that were held in conjunction with the annual TRB meetings. The Board discussed possible ways to increase interest, to include travel subsidies and special invitations to students from universities in the general vicinity of where the workshop is being held. A vote was held and the proposal to provide \$250/student (maximum of 8 students) in travel subsidies was unanimously approved.

Also, it was mentioned that the timing of the first call for applications for participants in the workshop may be a factor in the relatively low response. It was generally agreed by the Board that a second call for applications may receive a larger response. Finally, there is currently a time conflict between the PhD workshop and a scheduled student competition, which is part of the GeoCongress. Susan Burns will talk with David Frost (organizer of the GeoCongress) to try to rectify the time conflict.

#### **6. GEO-COUNCIL DUES**

The Geo-Council dues (\$100) are due. The Board generally agreed that the concept of the Geo-Council is a worthy, but it has not been that effective to-date. Also, the Board generally agreed that the \$100 dues for USUCGER membership on the Geo-Council is relatively small and that the Geo-Council may play a useful role in representing the geotechnical community's interests in the NSF reorganization (see Item 3 above).

#### **7. USUCGER OFFICERS FOR UP-COMING YEAR**

Susan Burns (President) asked Board members to send her an e-mail if they have a desire to hold a specific position on the Board for the up-coming year.

#### **8. DUES COLLECTION**

The annual USUCGER membership dues are due on September 1, 2005 (the dues are collected biennially). The annual dues will be collected under the new dues structure. The server needs to be updated before the bills are sent out.

**9. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting will be held via teleconference and is tentatively scheduled for early October 2005.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:51 P.M. EST**