

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anand Puppala-President, Susan Burns-President, Jim Hanson-Treasurer, Russell Green-Secretary, Steve Dickenson, and Ali Maher

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:** Matt Evans-Webmaster

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

**1. MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 3, 2007 UBOARD TELECONFERENCE CALL**

President Anand Puppala e-mailed the minutes from the 10/3/07 UBoard Teleconference. There was some confusion as to whether the correct minutes from the teleconference were posted to the website or not. After the present teleconference, Webmaster Matt Evans confirmed to Secretary Russell Green that indeed the correct minutes from the 10/3/07 teleconference were posted to the website.

**2. 2008 USUCGER WORKSHOP**

President Anand Puppala contacted Carol Bowers, Director, Geo-Institute, about holding the 2008 USUCGER Workshop in conjunction with either GeoCongress'08 (New Orleans, LA, March 9-12, 2008) or Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics IV (GEESD IV) (Sacramento, CA, May 18-22, 2008). Carol said that either was fine. However, there was general consensus among the UBoard that it would be better to hold the workshop in conjunction with GEESD IV. Although the theme of the GEESD IV is earthquake engineering and soil dynamics and therefore may limit attendance of the USUCGER Workshop to members working in these areas, it was thought that GeoCongress'08 is too close to properly organize the Workshop. Additionally, if the Workshop were held in conjunction with GeoCongress'08, it would have to be held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> because G-I workshops and committee meetings are being held on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, by holding the Workshop in conjunction with GEESD IV, it is likely that the Workshop can be held on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. The benefit of holding the Workshop on a Sunday instead of a Saturday relates to the total time participants would have to be out of town to attend both the Workshop and the G-I conference.

There was some general discussion among the UBoard about possible themes for the Workshop. Past Workshop themes were lobbying for research funding and improving industrial and academic connections. One potential theme discussed was future directions in geotechnical research. There were also discussions about having representatives from member institutions present an overview of program highlights and ongoing research, having a session on tips for young faculty, etc. Nothing firm was decided upon regarding the theme for the Workshop or the sessions that will be held at the Workshop.

Past President Susan Burns talked with NSF Program Manager Dr. Rick Fragaszy a while back about the possibility to obtain supplementary travel funds from NSF for the Workshop. While Dr. Fragaszy made no commitments, Susan said that he seemed open to receiving a proposal requesting funds. Regardless of the NSF supplementary funding, USUCGER has enough money to pay for travel expenses for guest speakers (no honorarium).

### **3. TREASURY AND USUCGER DUES UPDATE**

Treasurer Jim Hanson gave an update on dues collection. At present, about 30 members have paid their dues. And, while the website is up and running for dues payment, there have been some unexpected issues. The issues relate to members from the same institution wanting to pay their dues separately using different means of payment (e.g., check and credit card). Jim is currently working with these members to resolve the issue. Finally, members that were delinquent in paying dues were contacted one last time, and those that still did not pay their back dues were removed from the list-server.

### **4. USUCGER ELECTIONS UPDATE**

Web Master Matt Evans gave an update on the UBoard elections. Matt established an election committee consisting of himself, and Drs. Amy Cerato, George Filz, and John Stormont. The election committee assembled a list of 9 candidates, and one additional name was nominated by an ad hoc committee from LSU. The committee has contacted all of the candidates: 4 said yes they were willing to run for election, 2 said that they were not willing to run for election, 3 have not responded to the committee.

### **5. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES**

Dr. Andrea Welker will remain Chair of the Education Committee. Dr. Russell Green was appointed by the UBoard as Interim Chair of the Research Committee, with the permanent Chair to be selected at the 2008 USUCGER Workshop. As Interim Chair, Russell will work to develop a mandate for the Research Committee. Russell was charged with reading the NRC report "Geological and Geotechnical Engineering in the New Millennium: Opportunities for Research and Technological Innovation" and drafting a USUCGER Position Paper for Research. The UBoard gave authorization for Russell to hold a mini-workshop to help in writing the draft of the Paper. The Paper should be complete by the 2008 USUCGER Workshop, where it would be discussed by the entire Research Committee.

### **6. RFP**

UBoard Member Ali Maher led the discussion on the RFP. A draft for the RFP has been written, but the UBoard felt the RFP should be tied to the direction of the Research Committee. The UBoard reiterated the decision to keep the amount of the funding low so that the funding will be sustainable in the future. General criteria for evaluating the proposals were discussed, particularly the general benefit of the proposed work to the membership. Ali will work with Secretary Russell Green to select members to serve as reviewer of the proposals and to develop evaluation criteria; UBoard Member Steve Dickenson will provide feedback on both.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Web Master Matt Evans proposed that the UBoard make available ~\$1k to \$2k for travel funds for students to attend the USUCGER 2008 Workshop. Matt will take the lead in writing up a more detailed proposal on this.

The next teleconference will be held in approximately 1 month, likely in January.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:55 P.M. EST**