

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anand Puppala-President, Jim Hanson-Treasurer, Chris Baxter-Secretary, John Bowders, and Marte Gutierrez

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ali Maher-President Elect

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:** Matt Evans-Webmaster

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

**AGENDA:**

1. Partnership Initiative proposal by Dr. Briaud
2. 2008 Workshop
3. Awards (USUCGER Distinguished Researcher Award)
4. Membership and Treasurer Report
5. 2008 Board Elections
6. Web Issues and Others

**1. PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE**

Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud asked the Board to discuss and comment on the proposed formation of a Practitioners-Professors Partnership Task Force. A copy of the Task Force charge (dated June 2008) was distributed. The UBoard was supportive of this effort and it was agreed that a member of the Board should participate in the Task Force. Board member John Bowders volunteered to be the USUCGER representative.

**2. 2008 USUCGER WORKSHOP**

Jim Hanson reported on the 2008 USUCGER Workshop that was held during the Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics IV (GEESD IV) conference in Sacramento, CA on May 18, 2008. There were 39 participants and the feedback was extremely positive. The finances have not yet been finalized and Jim Hanson is working on a final report which will include the results of participant surveys.

**3. AWARDS (USUCGER DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD)**

Dr. Tuncer Edil from the University of Wisconsin-Madison was awarded the USUCGER Distinguished Researcher Award.

**4. MEMBERSHIP AND TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Jim Hanson reported on the financial status of USUCGER. There is currently \$35,700 in a checking account and \$10,000 in a certificate of deposit. Approximately \$3,600 still needs to be transferred from the NSF grant for food for the workshop.

Regarding membership, it was noted by Webmaster Matt Evans that there are many Universities that have not yet joined USUCGER. President Anand Puppala suggested that an undergraduate be hired to collect contact information on geotechnical faculty to help in recruiting new members. It was also suggested that an advertisement be placed with either GeoStrata or ASCE News to recruit new members.

#### **5. 2008 BOARD ELECTIONS**

Marte Gutierrez and Chris Baxter were charged with conducting the 2008 Board elections. Marte agreed to form a nominating committee consisting of three members. The committee will solicit the membership for nominees, and then forward the names of the nominees to Chris Baxter, who will conduct the election.

#### **6. WEB ISSUES AND OTHERS**

Webmaster Matt Evans will post photographs from last summers' Association of Drilled Shaft Contractors (ADSC) short course on the website. Matt will also contact Dr. Joe Caliendo to see if photographs from Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA) workshops are also available.

The next meeting will be scheduled for sometime in November. One item for the agenda will be a discussion of how USUCGER funds should be spent.

#### **7. ACTION ITEMS**

Ali Maher – Congratulate Dr. Edil on the Researcher Award and then email USUCGER community on Researcher Award details.

John Bowers – Represent USUCGER in ASCE-GI Panel on Practitioner-Faculty partnership; will work with Anand in compiling list of universities (with Geotech and CE program) that are not part of USUCGER.

Marte Gutierrez and Chris Baxter – Conduct the Board elections this year.

Jim Hanson – Wrap up the NSF report and work with Anand on Budget Issues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Oct 31 or NOV 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM CDT (Let Anand know which date works best for you).

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:47 P.M. EST.**