

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
DECEMBER 3, 2008**

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ali Maher-President Elect, John Bowders

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Matt Evans-Webmaster

MEETING COMMENCED AT 3:30 P.M. EDT.

AGENDA:

1. ASCE initiative by Dr. Briaud
2. 2008 USUCGER Workshop update
3. USUCGER Election Update

1. ASCE GEO-COALITION

Jean-Louis Briaud, President of the Geo-Institute, invited USUCGER to join the Geo-Coalition, which is a group of geo-organizations presidents and directors that meet once a year to discuss problems and solutions within our profession and to coordinate activities. The UBoard agreed to join the coalition and to pay the travel expenses of one board member to attend the next meeting.

2. 2008 USUCGER WORKSHOP UPDATE

A final report for the workshop is being prepared by Treasurer Jim Hanson and will likely be completed before the end of the year. The report will be submitted to NSF and will be posted on the USUCGER website.

3. 2008 BOARD ELECTIONS

Marte Gutierrez was charged with overseeing the formation of a nominating committee and the solicitation of nominees. Vaughan Griffiths (Colorado School of Mines) formed the nominating committee, which consisted of Giovanna Biscontin, Mandar Dewoolkar, David Elton, Jim Hanson, and Erik Loehr (Chair). The committee selected the following nominees:

Senior Board Members: Tarek Abdoun (RPI), John Bowders (Missouri), and Ken Stokoe (Texas)

Junior Board Members: Adda Athanasopoulos (Michigan), Amy Cerato (Oklahoma), and Scott Olson (Illinois)

Marte Gutierrez reported that several members of the nomination committee expressed concern that there were not any female nominees for the Senior Board Member position. It was recommended that the next nominating committee be informed that it is desirable to have appropriate representation of female faculty on the board and that they be encouraged to solicit worthy female candidates for the Board positions. It was also suggested that there is a need for some record/history of names of previous members of the Board.

The names of the nominees were passed on to Chris Baxter, who is charged with conducting the elections. It was agreed that the elections will take place in January, 2009.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Carol Bowers, Director of the ASCE Geo-Institute, asked to be added to the USUCGER listserv. The UBoard agreed that only paid members are added to the listserv, and President Puppala will email Dr. Briaud and recommend that Bowers join USUCGER as an Associate Member.

There was a discussion of the use of USUCGER funds. Matt Evans proposed that funds be provided to students to travel to ASCE conferences. Chris Baxter proposed that funds be made available to faculty to travel to NSF (or other funding agencies) to meet with program managers regarding proposed research. President Puppala requested that both Matt and Chris write a short 1- page proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

There was also a short discussion on the role of the research and education committee chairs in the Board meetings. It was suggested that the chairs of the committees be invited to the next Board meeting.

5. ACTION ITEMS

1. Chris Baxter will conduct the elections in January, 2009.
2. President Puppala and Webmaster Matt Evans will look into the issue of having more than six members on the Board this year.
3. Chris Baxter and Matt Evans will present a short summary of their proposals for using USUCGER funds.
4. President Puppala will email Dr. Briaud and recommend that Carol Bowers join USUCGER as an Associate Member.
5. President Puppala will invite the chairs of the research and education committees to the next Board meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:20 P.M. EST.