

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
APRIL 7, 2009**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Anand Puppala-President, Ali Maher-President Elect, Jim Hanson-Treasurer, Chris Baxter-Secretary, Amy Cerato, Marte Gutierrez, Ken Stokoe

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Matt Evans-Webmaster

MEETING COMMENCED AT 12:30 P.M. EDT.

AGENDA:

1. Introductions and Welcome to New Members
2. Action Items - Update - Anand
3. Treasurer – Post - Jim Hanson
4. Student Travel Support – Matt and Anand
5. Faculty Travel Support – Chris
6. Request for Co-Sponsorship for Two Conferences (Attachments 1 and 2)
7. Research and Education Committee Chairs - Anand
8. Geo-Coalition Meeting in May – Ali Maher
9. Any Other Items
10. Next Meeting

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

President Anand Puppala welcomed new Board Members Amy Cerato and Ken Stokoe

2. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Jean-Louis Briaud was contacted and agreed that the Geo-Institute would waive registration to the ASCE-GI GeoCongress for a travel award recipient.
- Matt Evans has formed a committee to update the USUCGER bylaws. The committee consists of Tom Zimmie, John Bowders, and Susan Burns, with Matt acting as liaison between the committee and the Board.

3. TREASURER REPORT

No report was given.

4. STUDENT TRAVEL SUPPORT

Matt's proposal for student travel awards to the annual ASCE-GI GeoCongress was discussed. It was proposed that awards be given to the top two students in the student paper competition. There was some concern that the student papers were not considered to be "published" and not included in the conference proceedings, and that it might be better to make the awards to students who were co-authors and were presenting their

work at the conference. It was also emphasized that USUCGER would need to receive appropriate recognition for these awards at the conference.

Anand will solicit votes from the UBoard for this proposal by email.

5. FACULTY TRAVEL SUPPORT

Chris' proposal for faculty travel awards to meet with representatives of funding agencies was discussed. There was concern that the award lacked broad appeal for the membership and that awarding funds on a "first-come, first-serve" basis was unfair. It was proposed that awards be granted two times per year to coincide with NSF deadlines, matching funds would be encouraged of all applicants and considered in reviewing the requests, and only one travel grant would be awarded to a member university.

Anand will solicit votes from the UBoard for this proposal by email.

6. REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP FOR TWO CONFERENCES

Dimitrios Zekkos requested that USUCGER participate in the organization of the upcoming conference "State of the Art and Practice in Geoenvironmental Conference" to be held in San Francisco in 2012, and to hold a USUCGER workshop as part of the conference. The UBoard agreed to be involved in the conference, and Amy Cerato tentatively agreed to be on the organizing committee.

Anand will contact Dimitrios regarding USUCGER's involvement.

Shamsher Prakash requested that USUCGER co-sponsor the upcoming "Fifth International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics and Symposium in Honor of Professor I. M. Idriss" to be held in San Diego in 2010. The UBoard agreed to co-sponsor the conference and will request that registration be waived for 1-2 USUCGER members to be appointed by the UBoard.

Ken Stokoe will contact Shamsher Prakash about this request.

7. GEO-COALITION MEETING IN MAY

Ali Maher will attend this meeting and report on it at our next meeting.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS

None.

9. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Anand will solicit votes from the UBoard on proposals for the Student Travel Awards and Faculty Travel Awards.
2. Anand will contact Dimitrios Zekkos regarding USUCGER's involvement in the 2012 State of the Art and Practice in Geoenvironmental Conference.
3. Ken Stokoe will contact Shamsher Prakash about USUCGER's involvement in the 2010 Fifth International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake

Engineering and Soil Dynamics and Symposium in Honor of Professor I. M. Idriss
and the request for registration waivers for 1-2 USUCGER members.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in late June or early July.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 P.M. E.D.T.