

USUCGER General Meeting
Geo-Congress 2013, San Diego, CA
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Room: Sunrise Room
March 3, 20013

Minutes

Attending Board Members: Christopher Meehan, Edward Kavazanjian, Tong Qiu

Invited Guests: Patricia Culligan (GI representative)

Webmaster: Matthew Evans

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

Ed made the opening statement, announced the meeting agenda, and gave an overview of where USUCGER stands.

Tong presented a summary of the Early Career Geotechnical Engineering Conference 2012.

Chris presented the Treasurer's report and reported on strategic activities of the Board.

Chris then solicited comments from the audience. Comments received from the audience included:

Comment: I don't think we are ready for the open access repository idea. ASCE is planning to have a YouTube channel. I think USUCGER can provide links to YouTube instead of being a repository for those videos. It takes a lot of effort and expertise to have a comprehensive index/database.

Comment: USUCGER should focus on the activities that can benefit the membership. We should not do things just for piling up activities.

Comment: We can support educational activities in conjunction with ASCE initiatives. For example, it is beneficial to gather videos of interest to the geotechnical engineering community and deposit them in the upcoming ASCE YouTube channel. USUCGER can link to the channel on those videos.

Comment: It would be beneficial for USUCGER to be a platform for sharing outreach activities among the geotechnical engineering community. It doesn't have to include detailed information, but some outline, summary and contact information would be helpful. For example, USUCGER can identify several members that are successful in graduate recruitment and outreach activities and ask them to give webinars to the general membership.

- Comment: It would be more efficient for USUCGER to mobilize the community through various committees. We need to have committee summaries and reports available to the general membership.
- Comment: USUCGER website is great for posting. But we need to go to the next stage. It would be beneficial for USUCGER to have a platform for sharing and exchanging research ideas and expertise (similar to Facebook and LinkedIn). I really want USUCGER to focus on research.
- Comment: Geoenvironmental engineering community has a Facebook page: GeoWorld. Maybe USUCGER can do something similar.
- A: USUCGER as an organization can go after funding from NSF to support some of our activities. This makes USUCGER different than other organizations.
- Comment: We should have more frequent webinars to facilitate the sharing and exchange of research ideas. These webinars can be user-driven.
- Comment: USUCGER can gather funding opportunities from different agencies and distribute them to the general membership. USUCGER can also establish a forum to foster these exchanges.
- Comment: Maybe we can let ASCE do the advocacy activities. Geo-Institute is our advocate and it seems that there is no need for USUCGER to participate in advocacy activities.
- A: USUCGER should also focus on the transfer of knowledge to the geo-profession.
- Comment: Geo-Institute is largely represented by practitioners. We need USUCGER to advocate the interest of university professors.
- Comment: We can continue to use the framework of Geo-Institute. We can make use of that and advocate our interest within this framework.
- Comment: We can form more committees for different missions within the USUCGER.
- Comment: We can have workshops to help prepare graduate students for their teaching. They are the next generation of professors.
- Comment: There are other opportunities to help our graduate students in receiving training in teaching (e.g., ASCE EXCEED, Bucknell workshop).
- Comment: It would be helpful to be able to post questions on USUCGER to seek help/advice on teaching, research, and serves in geotechnical engineering community. It would be helpful to have graduate students as members.

A: USUCGER has institutional membership not individual membership. It is up to the faculty member to distribute relevant information to his/her graduate students.

Comment: Do we track USUCGER ad traffic?

A: The current structure of USUCGER website makes traffic tracking difficult as the website is hosted on a university server as a ghost website.

Comment: Maybe it is time for USUCGER to move beyond this and have its independent website.

Thank you for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.