

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
FEBRUARY 27, 2004**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean-Louis Briaud-President, Dave Elton, Susan Burns, Barbara Luke, Deborah Goodings and Sarah Gassman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Carlos Santamarina

MEETING COMMENCED AT 3:00 P.M. CST.

1. MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board will review the draft of a proposed new “Dues and Membership Structure” prepared by Barbara Luke. The Board will vote at the next meeting.

2. ELECTIONS

A chair and committee need to be formed for this year’s elections. Susan Burns will serve as the liaison to the election committee. Deborah Goodings will serve as an advisor to Susan Burns through the election process.

3. AWARDS

The Board will request that the Research Committee draft a description of the USUCGER Distinguished Researcher Award. The Board decided that the research award should not be named after a person. The motion to rename the other two existing USUCGER awards after people was tabled.

Jean-Louis Briaud requested that Carlos Santamarina organize the process to select the USUCGER Research Investment Award.

4. PE FOR PROFS

Jean-Louis Briaud will send an email to the membership to request comments on ASCE’s stance to require all civil engineering professors to obtain a P.E. license. Discussion will be open for 2 weeks, followed by a vote of the membership.

5. RESEARCH COMMITTEE TOR

Dave Elton and Deborah Goodings will provide a response to the Research Committee’s Terms of Reference.

6. SESSION AT GEOSUPPORT

Jean-Louis Briaud reported that the session at GeoSupport was well attended and referred the Board to a summary of that session which he sent to the GI, ADSC, DFI, and ASFE for their magazine

7. TRB PHD SESSION AND RECEPTION

The Board agreed that USUCGER should organize the Doctoral Workshop at the 2005 TRB Annual Meeting, followed by a reception. Sarah Gassman will organize the workshop. The incoming treasurer will organize the reception. Subsequent Doctoral Workshops will be moved to GI meetings to maximize attendance at both the workshop and reception.

8. FREQUENCY OF USUCGER CONFERENCES

Jean-Louis Briaud reported that the membership is split exactly in the middle with 50% wanting USUCGER Conferences every 2 years, and 50% wanting them every 4 years (34 universities voted). In both cases, he believed that everyone is in favor of yearly sessions at GI meetings. The Board decided that the next USUCGER Conference be held in the fall of 2006, however because the opinion of the membership on the frequency of USUCGER Conferences is split, the Board will revisit the issue next year.

9. NSF LETTER

Jean-Louis reported that the GeoCouncil will be writing a letter of concern to NSF regarding the funding situation and was asked by Peter Smeallie if USUCGER would be willing to sign such a letter. Jean-Louis Briaud supported the idea and sent some suggested paragraphs to Peter Smeallie. The Board recommended that USUCGER draft its own letter to NSF and will ask the Research Committee to do so.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is TBA

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:25 P.M. CST