

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING
CONFERENCE CALL
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Burns-President, Jim Hanson-Treasurer, Russell Green-Secretary, Anand Puppala, Steve Dickenson, and Ali Maher

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Sarah Gassman-Past Treasurer, Matt Evans-Webmaster, and Carlos Santamarina

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND WEBMASTER

President Susan Burns welcomed and introduced the two new Board Members: Ali Maher, Rutgers University and Jim Hanson, CalPoly, San Luis Obispo. Additionally, the new webmaster was welcomed and introduced: Matt Evans, North Carolina State University.

2. TREASURE'S REPORT

Outgoing Treasure Sarah Gassman gave a summary report of USUCGER's financial activities. Dues were collected through the Fall and Spring, totaling ~\$8k. This brought the current balance of USUCGER's accounts to ~\$37k. Last year's expenditures totaled ~\$5k: ~\$2k in travel expenses, ~\$2k to host the Atlanta workshop, and ~\$1.5k for web maintenance. The next cycle for dues collection will begin next Fall.

3. USUCGER INITIATIVES

Former Board Member Carlos Santamarina outlined an initiative (see attached) for the Board to consider, wherein the Board would issue a request for proposal (RFP) to the USUCGER membership for "seed" funding for IT research that could benefit the geotechnical community at large. The proposal was generally well received with some discussion of specifics, including caps on the dollar amount of the proposals, number of proposals to be funded, requirements of stated follow-on funding, matching funds, and research ideas. It was agreed to place a cap of \$10k on the proposals and that Board Members Ali Maher and Jim Hanson would work with Carlos to draft an RFP. A tentative schedule of issuing the RFP before the end of the year, with a deadline for proposals by the end of February, was generally agreed upon.

4. NEHRP-USUCGER INTERACTION

USUCGER Member Jonathan Bray contacted a couple of the Board Members regarding past NEHRP activities in which future geotechnical earthquake engineering research funding could have potentially benefited had the geotechnical community been more involved. The latest activity was the call for nominations for candidates for the NEHRP

Advisory Committee, which, among other duties, will "assess trends and developments in the science and engineering of earthquake hazard reduction." The Board agreed that Board Member Russell Green would call NEHRP Director Jack Hayes to emphasize the need for the geotechnical perspective to be represented on the Advisory Committee and to offer USUCGER's assistance in selecting suitable geotechnical candidates. In the phone conversation with Russell Green, Jack Hayes provided the following information:

- The Advisory Committee members haven't been selected yet.
- There were a lot more good people nominated than the 15 members that will be ultimately selected. Jack plans to contact all the good candidates that aren't selected for the initial Committee to see if they're interested in being "waitlisted" for future openings. (There will be 15 voting members on the Committee and 1 non-voting member, with the latter being the head of the USGS Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee.)
- There were multiple geotechnical engineers nominated, as well as geologists, seismologists, emergency planners, and social scientists. The nominations could be made by anyone, to include self nominations, which there were several. Jack was prohibited from stating the names of any of the nominees being considered.
- Technical, geographical, gender/minority considerations, etc. are being used to select the Committee members. But, there aren't a fixed number of slots on the Committee for any given category. Jack said that the number of geotechs will likely be one or more and less than twelve -- he couldn't go into more specifics because he didn't know.
- In soliciting the nominations, Jack didn't contact the heads of any specific organizations (e.g., ASCE, GI, EERI), but the solicitation was sent to multiple listservers that included individuals from all these organizations, as well as being posted in the Federal Register for a month. Jack encouraged the interested USUCGER Members to sign-up on the NEHRP listserver; he followed-up the phone call with the e-mail which provided information on how to sign up. Board Member Russell Green forwarded Jack's e-mail to the USUCGER membership on 9/25/06.

5. USUCGER AWARDS

The Distinguished Service Award and the Research Investment Award will be given in 2007, hopefully at the G-I GeoDenver Conference. Respective committees need to be assembled and lists of nominees and solicitations for nominees need to be made. Board Member Steve Dickenson agreed to head the selection committee for Research Investment Award and Board Member Anand Puppala agreed to head the selection committee for the Distinguished Service Award.

6. USUCGER TREASURER'S POSITION

Board Member Jim Hanson agreed to assume the duties of Treasurer and has been looking into ways to manage the USUCGER account (i.e., through his university versus directly with a bank as a non-profit organization). Thus far, it appears that it will be less costly to deal directly with a bank. This latter approach had been done in the past by previous treasurers and could allow on-line payment of dues via credit card. President

Susan Burns stated that funds are available to pay for a student assistant to help with the accounting.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Webmaster Matt Evans stated that many of the broken links and other problems with the USUCGER website will be fixed when the website is moved from the Georgia Tech server to the NC State server.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:45 P.M. EST

USUCGER INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY CARLOS SANTAMARINA:

General Theme:

- ** Geo-engineering has an exceptional opportunity to benefit from the revolution in information technology.
- ** The USUCGER board has decided to use our savings to trigger initiatives that will have a large impact on the community.

Submission

- ** 3 pages long
- ** include concept, matching, budget, schedule.

Suggested ideas (not limiting)

- ** Distributed Content Development: Wiki-Geo-Pedia
- ** Distributed Content Development: databases for data mining and knowledge extraction
- ** General Web Information Resources
- ** Public domain software repository
- ** others...

Restrictions

- ** duration: 1 year
- ** Budget: a total of \$20,000 will be distributed this fiscal year. It is our intention to fund 2 seed projects.
- ** ownership and control of the results (hardware, software, system) would go to USUCGER at the end of the project.
- ** open to USUCGER members

Selection Criteria:

- ** results should have clear benefit to the community
- ** matching funds are not required but encouraged (e.g., 0% overhead, industry, federal or state, etc.. to be used as leverage/seed funds)
- ** selection: based on innovation, potential impact, achievability