

USUCGER Teleconference – 28 April 2015

8:00 am – 9:00 am PDT

Minutes

Attendees: Ed Kavazanjian (Chair), Jeff Evans (Past President), Tong Qui¹ (Secretary), Shideh Dashti, Tanya Kunberger, Ellen Rathje, Scott Olson, Matt Evans (Web Master), Chris Meehan (Treasurer)

Chair Kavazanjian called the meeting to order and welcomed the new Board members, Ellen Rathje and Scott Olson.

The agenda (attachment) was approved as prepared by the chair.

Treasurer Meehan reported balance of approximately \$57,000 in the organizations bank account after all encumbrances are accounted for. He noted that annual expenses average about \$7,500 plus whatever is allocated for the Special Projects initiative, while annual revenue averages about \$9,000 per year.

The Board unanimously approved endorsement as a Cooperating Organization of 2017 Geofrontiers Conference (Attachment). It was noted that this is also the 2007 ASCE Geo-Institute GeoCongress and that USUCGER is routinely listed as a cooperating organization for the GeoCongress without any special approvals by the Board. It was suggested that the Board adopt a policy of routine approval by the Chair of endorsement requests for any recurring meeting for which USUCGER has been a cooperating member in the past. Chair Kavazanjian suggested the requirements for enrolling USUCGER as a cooperating organization be included in the next set of revisions to the By-Laws.

The Board asked Chair Kavazanjian to let Professor Prakash know that USUCGER will list the 6th International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics (Attachment) on our website under upcoming conferences, but that for USUCGER to be listed as a Cooperating Organization we needed to receive some tangible benefit for our members, and that a 10% discount on the registration fee for international delegates would be an appropriate benefit.

The Board approved of ADSC's request for its email list for their Professor's Workshop (Attachment)

Chair Kavazanjian briefed the Board for on plans for NSF-sponsorship of an Early Career Academic Professional Workshop in February 2016, on the day prior to the 2016

¹ Joined at approximately 8:15 am.

GeoCongress (the Geo-SEI Joint Conference) in Phoenix. A two-page preliminary proposal and budget is being prepared for review by Rick Fragaszy, NSF program manager for Geomechanics. The draft budget and a draft outline for the workshop are attached to these minutes.

Chair Kavazanjian briefed the Board on PDCA-USUGGER Joint Council Activities. The Council met for the first time in San Antonio at the IFCEE meeting. Joint activities discussed at the meeting included an internship program, a co-op program, and collaboration on research. The co-op program should be rolled out in the next several weeks. PDCA will have an article in the next issue of their magazine and will otherwise promote the program to their membership. There will be an on-line form for participating companies to fill out. Key information from the form will be collected into a table posted on the website with a link to the form and the more detailed information on the internship opportunity contained therein.

The Board agreed to roll out the 2015 Special Project solicitation this summer so that an award can be made by the start of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Chair Kavazanjian asked all Board members to review the by-laws in preparation for a second round of by-law revisions. Potential revision discussed included making the past chair a voting member and extending the membership cycle for two years to three years.

Chair Kavazanjian discussed the need to re-establish the USUGGER committees on Awards, Research and Education Committees (Attachments), revise their terms of reference (or in the case of the Awards Committee, establish some terms of reference), and commence with Committee activities. The Chair asked for volunteers to chair the three committees. Shideh Dashti volunteered to chair the Education Committee. As there were no volunteers for the other two committees, the Chair said he would contact individual Board members to recruit chairs for these committees.

Past-Chair Evans noted the need to start the election cycle for two new Board members to fill the Board to its full complement of 8 elected members later this summer, so that the new Board members could begin their terms in January.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.

Action Items

All: Review By-Laws and compile list of recommended changes

Kavazanjian: Notify IFAI of approval Board action on 2017 Geofrontiers Conference

Inform Professor Prakash of Board action on 6th International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics

Notify Jan Hall of Board action on ADSC request

Contact Board members regarding chairmanship of Research and Awards committees.

Initiate next round of solicitation for Special Project funding.

Evans: Provide spreadsheet with member names and email addresses to Jan Hall

Dashti: Identify other USUGGER members to serve on the committee (may want to send out a call for volunteers)

Review Education Committee "Terms of Reference" and revise as appropriate.