

AIC Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2011 12:00 – 4:49 PM, Student Union Presidio Room

Members Attending: Jerry Cannon, Kathy Chavez, Charles Gajda, Joe Gervasio, Therese Lane, Kevin Lansey, Scott Larson, George Maseeh, Travis McCarthy, Thomas McGovern, Ann Moynihan, Edward Nowatzki, Dean Papajohn, Robin West, David Zaleski, Mark Hickman – **Others attending :** Gary Barras, Jeff Goldberg, Barry Benson, Anna Naumovitz, Monica Soto, Shelby Madrid, Patrick Mete

Members Who Sent Regrets: David Areghini, Mick Mathieu, Bill Nelson, Stan Turney, Mark Woodson, Robert Wortman, Benny Young

Absent: Robert Barksdale, Michael Barton, Seth Chalmers, James Davey, Tom Draeger, Mo Ehsani, John Evans, Alan Forrest, Eric Froberg, David Glidersleeve, James Glock, Chris Grubbs, Kevin Josker, Juan Lopez, Dave Mahaffy, Thomas McLean, Farhad Moghimi, William Palmer, Nancy Patania Brown, Claudia Perchinelli, Robert Rasmussen, Ken Wright

Introductions and Presentations

Scott Larson called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and all members introduced themselves. Visitor was Gary Barras who had been nominated to be on the AIC.

Engineers Without Borders Student Club Update, Patrick Mete:

Eight UA students were able to attend the international conference.

EWB has had two projects approved and now must choose one, either a water purification project in Bolivia or an agricultural irrigation project in Mexico. The group expressed a need for industry to go to a regional training conference.

The club's fundraising events this year will be Frisbee Without Borders, a movie screening at The Loft Cinema and Night on the Town. They are also volunteering on a local level at Habitat for Humanity.

The UA chapter is hosting the Mountain Region Training for chapters from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho on November 11th -13th.

Institute of Transportation Engineers Update, Monica Soto:

The new board for ITE this year: Monica Soto is the President, Annette Wancho is the V.P., Jake Kronberg is the Treasurer, Rae Gargione is the Secretary and Dr. Mark Hickman is the Faculty Advisor.

There will be four general meetings this fall: Drs. Hickman and Chiu will introduce the transportation study in CE, present their research and give their view of the future of transportation; AZ Dept. of Transportation; Pima County DOT; and City of Tucson DOT.

Their plans for this year are to collaborate with SCE and WICE, work to get more graduate student involvement and conduct on-site field trips with transportation related projects.

Society of Civil Engineers Update, Anna Naumovitz:

New board members are: Anna Naumovitz is the President, Monica Soto is the Internal Vice President, Marcus Miller is the External V.P., Jack Rudzena is the Treasurer, Jose Aguilar is the Secretary, Shelby Madrid is the Conference Coordinator, Kelsey Palmer is the Marketing Director, Aaron Maciosek is the Webmaster, Eric Hopkins is the Underclassmen Liaison, and Fernando Gastelum is the Historian.

Upcoming events and fundraisers are the Career Fair on October 12, a golf tournament in November and the holiday dinner in December.

The SCE has meetings scheduled with speakers from Cooper Ariel, NCS and PSOMAS. Technical tours are planned for Ashton's new elephant exhibit and the I-19 pipeline.

The ASCE Student Conference will be held this year at California State Polytechnic University Pomona on March 22-24, 2012. Work is already underway and \$1,000 has been raised over the summer. MJI is cutting the concrete canoe mold. The steel bridge design is already underway.

Outreach is important to the group and they are working with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and have planned 2 trips to Cottonwood Elementary to enhance lesson plans with fun activities. They are also planning a food drive in September as a joint effort with the Refugee Club.

Dean of the College of Engineering, Jeffrey Goldberg:

CEEM highlights: Received their 6 year ABET accreditation; this year's students group is large and the incoming freshmen have higher GPAs than the last five years; 2 journal publications/faculty which is above average; research expenditures are up 20% in FY 11 to \$1.8M; CEEM is almost self supporting with tuition; key piece of the College's retention strategy as key courses are taught here (CE 214 & CE 215); integrating more into the college's team research strategy.

The college's female and minority populations have increased this year. The college is working to improve their retention numbers by offering more help to the underclassmen. In addition the College has a Residence Life program, Student Success Courses and has placed their better instructors in the 1st and 2nd year classes.

Marketing of the College has improved with more articles put in the media about our accomplishments than ever before. The web pages are being redesigned; they put out a monthly email blast, a video, and 2 print editions per year of the AZ Engineer. The goal is for national exposure.

The College of Engineering's research expenditures increased to \$28.7M in FY 2011. Our College of Engineering rank in the US News for FY 11 was 40/50.

The Engineering 102 course has 20 participating high schools.

The status of technology transfer was asked for by Tom McGovern. Dr. Goldberg said that this is an important area but not a priority for current Interim President. The new President should be chosen by March to take office by next fall and then he anticipates that this issue should be moving again.

Sr. Director of Development for the College of Engineering, Barry Benson:

Barry has been busy meeting with donors and alumni seeking major donations of \$25K or more. He helped secure two large donations for Civil Engineering. The Dean's Annual Fund solicitations will go to 25K alumni. It is anticipated that 2.7% will actually donate. Approximately \$3,000 of CEEM alumni gives 3.2% to the department and 6.5% to the institution. June through August the college appeals will be an online process. The departments will have the freedom to solicit for end of the calendar year gifts.

The da Vinci Circle, which is a discretionary fund for the Dean of Engineering, used to accept Mohr's Circle members who donated \$1,000 into the group but now members must donate \$5,000 or more annually to the department to also be included in the Mohr's Circle.

Discussion ensued regarding the phone banks for donations. No studies have been done to date to see if it is worthwhile for the college to continue with this method as a follow up to print solicitations. Better tracking will be done to analyze this.

Barry hopes for CEEM AIC members and faculty to identify potential large donors. Estate planning is also a great way to give. Payment plans and employer matching funds were also discussed.

Department Head Update, Kevin Lansey:

The number of undergraduate students is down to 148 students from 158 in the fall of last year, but the number of graduate students has risen to 69 from 64 for the same time period. We have 11 faculty and 5 staff.

ABET results were discussed.

The department's research grants have gone up from \$1.9M to \$2.2M which is \$200K/faculty. The department has a new budget process where the tuition follows the students and this was discussed. There was a 5% cut to the University/College this year and a 6-7% cut is expected next year. The College's revenue now comes from undergraduate and graduate tuition, general fund allocation, differential tuition, philanthropy, summer courses and outreach. CEEM gets approximately \$35K from summer courses, \$30K from philanthropy (does not include scholarship donations) and does not receive anything yet from outreach/distance ed.

The Department is asking for \$15,000 for large scale improvements for the laboratories as well as new investments for Geotech lab (\$7,000 coming out of lab fees).

Departmental Highlights: Muniram Budhu published a new Foundations textbook; Yi-Chang Chiu has been named the Delbert Lewis Distinguished Professor and has a new \$1M FHWA project plus DynusT; Chandra Desai has been named a Distinguished Member of ASCE and is retiring in December; Jennifer Duan has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, has completed the flume construction and is the WICE faculty advisor; Robert Fleischman is heading a new \$1.2M NSF-NSEER project; George Frantziskonis has published New Mechanics textbook; Mark Hickman has been named the Director of the ATLAS Center and UA Transportation Center which is expected to have a high activity level; Tribikram Kundu is the faculty advisor for the SCE student club and is the leading journal publication author in the Department; Hamid Saadatmanesh remains on leave but will teach Infrastructure Rehabilitation this spring; Lianyang Zhang is working on multiple

projects on geosynthetic materials – fly ash and reuse of concrete; and Achintya Haldar was awarded 4 teaching awards last academic year.

There are now 25 members in the Mohr's Circle and the funds were used primarily to pay the salaries of the adjunct faculty. Our current members are: Alstom Power Inc., AzSCE S. AZ Branch, Bob and Shirley Barksdale, Steven Bertheau, CH2M Hill, Foster Wheeler North America Corp., Joseph Gervasio, Kevin and Diana Lansey, M3 Engineering & Technology, Malcolm Pirnie, Tom McGovern, NCS Consultants, Ed and Pat Nowatzki, Quakewrap Inc., RBF Consulting Foundation, Salt River Project, Shaw Power Inc., Structural Grace, Robert Suarez, Sundt Construction Co., The Ashton Company, TranSystems, URS, Woodson Engineering & Surveying Inc., Zachry Industrial, Inc.

CEEM also had an anonymous couple donate \$25K from which we purchased Finite Element Software, Civil View publication, support of SCE, a testing instrument, and a copier. A second donation of \$25K from Mrs. Alice Dempster will upgrade the Tinius-Olsen testing machine. The Department is fortunate to have 29 scholarships that gave 41 students a total of \$98K this year.

Where to go next: We have been approved to interview for at least one faculty member; develop other revenue streams; and develop distance education capability. There was a discussion about LEED. Dr. Lansey elaborated on when this is taught and how students must incorporate LEED ideas into projects.

Tom McGovern said his company pays for employees to take LEED test. Suggests we have students who get internships to have their companies pay for the test. Discussion ensued.

Additional revenue is needed for field trips, construction mgmt. course, outside invited speakers, faculty travel to funding agencies, targeted faculty/staff/adjunct raises, staff for publicity, outreach, promoting outreach (Civil View, website, promotional material).

Need an organizer for the Construction Management course. Class could be taught by one teacher or by a different teacher each week. Dr. Lansey will send syllabus to AIC members.

Travis McCarthy suggested students just send an email if they need supplies. Don't be afraid to ask because his company would be more than willing to donate supplies such as hard hats for field trips. Students just need to ask if they are needed.

Bylaws: Kathy Chavez proposed that nominations for new members be made 60 days in advance of meeting and elaborated on why 60 days. Discussion ensued. No resolution at this point. Kathy went over the rules and protocol. Suggests they meet 3 times a year with meetings being shorter. Teleconferencing or video chat for those members who can't make the trip was suggested. Discussion ensued. Tom McGovern suggested supporting committees meet more often, but main group continue to have 2 meetings per year. General consensus was to maintain 2 meetings per year. Tom suggested committee report should be submitted 1 month before so meeting is more a Q and A session rather than presentations.

Group agreed they enjoyed Goldberg as a speaker as well as speakers in general at the meetings.

Kathy Chavez suggested charging AIC membership dues of \$100 per person or \$200 per firm in order to raise money for homecoming barbeque. Discussion ensued. The group agreed that dues should not be charged. George Maseeh suggested everyone bring their checkbooks and be aggressive on gaining donations. Scott Larson suggested efforts should be focused on \$1,000 Mohr's Circle donations.

Kathy discussed a new proposal in the bylaws which sets AIC events. Kathy will provide a draft of the revised by-laws with track changes in advance of the next AIC meeting.

Dr. Lansey went over the Centennial activities for this year: Engineer's Breakfast the morning of November 4th, Centennial Luncheon at Noon. Both activities are in the Student Union. Robin West asked why there is still a "centennial" luncheon because the centennial was years ago. Group talked about renaming centennial award and centennial luncheon. Group consensus was that "centennial" name no longer works and a new name is needed. Discussion should be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Scott Larson asked about ad hoc committees. Tom McGovern interjected that members need one month heads up on minutes. Kathy agreed.

Scott asked how they can stay connected to alumni and asked about LinkedIn. The group talked about joining in the existing LinkedIn Group. Many members joined. Scott suggested creating a Phoenix alumni group/meeting. Kevin suggested a basketball watching group up in Phoenix for UA/ASU game. Scott agreed with Kevin but also suggested more formal meetings take place beforehand for Phoenix based alumni. Members need to help alumni connect more to the University. Ed suggested these meetings be not necessarily AIC formal meetings, but meetings to give alumni chance to network with AIC members and share ideas. Scott stated visibility and reaching out to grads in Phoenix is important. He suggested getting tickets to the UA/ASU basketball game for group to attend. It is important to get alumni to recruit other alumni. Ed suggested getting feedback from alumni about AIC activities. Chuck said he'll look into what it takes to get tickets to alumni. He suggested possible raffle fundraiser for tickets.

The college has purchased half a sky box for the football games and there was discussion about getting people to use this box.

To-Do Items:

- Dr. Lansey to email syllabus of construction management class to AIC
- Need to put Alumni objectives for ABET on the agenda for the next meeting
- Kathy to prepare proposed revisions to the By-Laws and send to members before the next meeting

Next AIC Meeting:

Next meeting date: Friday March 30, 2012 at noon, with a light buffet lunch beginning at 11:30.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.