

MINUTES OF THE  
CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY  
April 2, 2005

Present: Tom Zachman, Chair, Tony Childress, Thomas Stroh, Greg Soules, Bobby Evans, Walter McCullough, Bill Burnett, T. Lynn Lovell, Fred Wagner, Gary Law, Jim McDonald, Rich Patrick, Rusty Thoma, Ken Bownds, Travis Waldrip, Kevin Craig, Glenn Breisch, Rich Oller, Bernie Gradel, Jr., Robert Pope, Gary Thomas, Burton Clifton, Greg Boyd, Dale Cherry, H. Scott Norville, Civil Engineering Department Chair, and Debbie Starcher, Civil Engineering Department Supervisor.

**Call to Order**

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Civil Engineering Academy convened Saturday, April 2, 2005. Tom Zachman, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Introductions**

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed members, new inductees and guests. Introductions began with visiting members from the Civil Engineering student organizations. Present were Charles Hammond, a senior CE major who is president of Chi Epsilon and ASCE; Garrett Yeates, a junior CE major. Garrett is the Intramurals chairperson for ASCE. Amanda Felderhoff, a junior CE major, serves as the ASCE treasurer and Kevin Bates, a senior CE major. Kevin is the Community Service chair of ASCE.

Following the introductions of the CE students, all Academy members present introduced themselves and stated their current place of employment.

Tom then welcomed the following new inductees into the Academy:

- Ken Bownds
- Glen Breisch
- Kevin Craig
- Jim McDonald
- Robert Pope
- Ravi Vallabhan
- Travis Waldrip

Two new faculty members have been added to the CE Department. Tom requested they share information about themselves and report on their responsibilities in the department.

Dr. Xinzhong Chen, Assistant Professor – Dr. Chen became part of the CE faculty last fall. He will be working with the faculty in Wind Science and Engineering Research Center. Dr. Chen received his BS and MS from China and his Ph.D. from Tokyo, Japan. Prior to coming to Texas Tech he was working at Notre Dame. He is currently

teaching Structural Dynamics. Dr. Chen's research interests are Structural Dynamics, Bridge and Building Aerodynamics, Cable-Supported Bridges and Wind Engineering.

Dr. Hongchao Liu – Assistant Professor – Dr. Liu also received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from China and his Ph.D. from University of Tokyo. Prior to coming to Texas Tech last fall Dr. Liu had been working at University California, Berkeley. Dr. Liu is currently teaching two classes, Geometric Design and Highway System Design.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The 2004 minutes were distributed to the Academy. After time was given for review, Tom asked for any comments. No comments were given. Tom asked for a motion to approve the April 3, 2004, minutes as written. Greg Soules moved to approve the minutes as written. Bernie Gradel seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Greg Soules, Treasurer, presented the Fiscal Year 2004 Treasurer's Report.

Balances in the respective accounts are:

Civil Engineering Academy – \$11,079.13

Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment – \$65,599.54

Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Interest – \$2,971.21

Four \$1000 scholarships were awarded to civil engineering students from the CE Academy Scholarship Interest account in FY 2004.

Tom Zachman gave a brief summary of the difference in the three accounts. The Civil Engineering Academy account is primarily funded by the Civil Engineering Academy with a suggested donation of at least \$100 per year. The account covers the incidental costs of Academy functions and provides some funding for the Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship – Interest account. The interest account provides the funds disbursed for scholarships. The CE Academy Scholarship Endowment is the principal account. These principal account funds cannot be spent. Tom asked for any questions or discussion. There being no discussion, Bernie Gradel moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Rich Oller seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Chairman's Report**

Scott Norville presented the Chairman's Report. Highlights were:

#### **\*Student Information**

- Enrollment – increasing; now second biggest department in college
- Departmental Scholarships
  - Undergraduates - \$38,500 (65 students)
  - Graduates – \$28,000 (28 students)
- FE Exam
  - Spring 2004 – 92.3% passed
  - Fall 2004 – 87.8% passed
- Student Organizations

- Student Placement
  - Senior exit interviews show job placement of students at approximately 97%
- Salary Range for Students
  - Government agencies – upper \$30's to lower \$40's for BSCE
  - Consulting Firms – mid to upper \$40's to lower \$50's
  - Oil Companies – greater than \$60k

#### \*Faculty Changes

- Two ongoing faculty searches
  - One a continuation from last year – unsuccessful replacement for Dr. Vann
  - Wind Engineering
- Dr. Kiesling – became Senior Associate Dean in College of Engineering
- Dr. Norville – named as Chair
- Dr. Ramsey – named as Associate Chair
- New Faculty
  - Dr. Xinzhong Chen – Assistant Professor, Wind Engineering
  - Dr. Hongchao Liu – Assistant Professor, Transportation Research
- Faculty Recognition
  - Civil Engineering
    - Ken Rainwater – Researcher of the Year
    - Scott Phelan – Teacher of the Year
  - College of Engineering Awards
    - Priyantha Jayawickrama – Hanger-Abell Faculty Award (2002)
  - University Recognition
    - Chris Letchford - Will receive 2005 President's Excellence in Teaching Award
    - Phil Nash - Professing Excellence Award" Success Center/Department of Housing and Residence
  - State Recognition
    - David Thompson and Bill Lawson received recognition for innovative research from TxDOT Projects

#### \*Research Centers

- Wind Science and Engineering
  - New Director – Dr. Andrew Swift
    - Working in the Wind Energy Research area
- TechMRT
  - \$1.96M in research awards for this year to work on numerous TxDOT projects
  - Submitted 20 proposals +/- for new funding next year
- Water Resources Center
  - Working with WISE to couple wind power with desalination forming a coalition with industry and national labs
  - Continued NASA funding
  - University has picked Water (and Ethics) as central focus issues

- Murdough Center
  - Published CD *Incident at Morales* © 2003 that has garnered a lot of attention
  - University has picked Ethics (and Water) as central focus issues

Dr. Norville concluded his report with an ABET update. The CE Department is gearing up for the report writing mode. The Department is conducting online surveys of students who have graduated in the last 6-7 years. The Department also sent out employer surveys. The College of Engineering will begin reviewing the report around May 15. The completed report is to be submitted to ABET by mid June or early July. The ABET visit is scheduled for October 2005.

Dr. Norville concluded his report and opened the floor for questions or comments. Discussion topics included: (1) number of students graduating in spring, which is between 30 and 40 with approximately 6-8 going on to graduate school. (2) The question was asked if there was any known data on the ASCE paper contest. No information was available at this time. (3) Texas Tech retention level: on a year to year basis usually rated first, second or third within the College of Engineering; with respect to other state supported universities we are a little below average; with respect to private universities we fall quite a bit below average. Higher retention rate comes from transfer students. (4) Breakdown between civil and environmental students; of the 493 students, approximately 40-50 are environmental. Of that 40-50 only about five end up graduating in the EnvE program. (5) Reduction of hours in the BSCE program. Over this past year the Curriculum Committee has reduced the program from 136/137 hours to a 126/127 hour program. This program is allowing for an extra technical/design elective. Dr. Norville perceives that there will still be pressure to reduce program to 120 hours.

### **Old Business**

- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund  
For the benefit of the new Academy members, Tom Zachman explained the goal of the Academy is to increase the Academy Scholarship Endowment by a significant amount in order to generate more interest. Tom worked together with Greg Soules and set a three year goal to raise the Endowment to \$250,000. A letter was mailed out last year soliciting a contribution for 2004 and pledges for 2005 and 2006. Twenty people have responded with contributions and pledges. This has generated a balance to date of \$65,600 and pledges for 2005 and 2006 of \$31,066. Tom and Greg have regrouped and will be mailing out a second letter to encourage those who have pledged to not forget and to encourage those who have not contributed to consider doing so. The Advisory Council has agreed to contact individuals they know to encourage their donations. Greg Soules commented that this is a way to show your gratitude to Texas Tech University.

Tom opened the floor for discussion or questions. Discussion included: (1) decreased support from the State of Texas; (2) increase in student tuition, making it harder for students to get through school; (3) offer of scholarships to attract the better students.

Tom closed the discussion by stating that at the end of the three year program, the Academy will procure a plaque which will have the names of all contributors and the level they contributed at. It will also be a plaque that names can be added to as the contributor list grows.

- Civil Engineering Academy Website

The new CE Academy website can be accessed by going to [www.ce.ttu.edu](http://www.ce.ttu.edu) . There is a link on the main page that says Academy. The website will have the purpose and objectives of the Academy; the bylaws; names of academy members; recent inductees along with their bios; and upcoming events.

### **New Business**

- Bylaws – There are four different aspects to the Academy: (1) the Purpose and Objectives, (2) the Mission, (3) the Bylaws and (4) the Qualifications. Tom has agreed to look at the various aspects and bring them together into one document. The main focus of the Academy will still be to recognize the accomplishments of graduates after they leave Texas Tech University. Tom opened the floor for suggestions on ways the Academy can expand its purpose other than a yearly banquet and nominating and inducting new members. He mentioned there has already been a start with the goal to increase the CE Academy Endowment. Other suggestions included: (1) volunteering to help with recruitment in members' local areas, (2) members volunteer to come and speak to students at seminars, (3) members providing sponsorship to cover a portion of student travel expenses to competitions, (4) being a professional mentor to one or more students. Membership criteria will also be expanded to include not only graduates of the CE Department, but also those who have had significant influence or participation in the Department of Civil Engineering.
- Terms of Officers – Due to size of the Academy now, as opposed to its initial size, Walter McCullough recommended reducing the term of an officer to one year as opposed to two as written in the bylaws, or at least have it as an option for consideration.

Tom Zachman is on the committee to coordinate the bylaws for the Advisory Council and those for the Academy and insure they don't overlap. The drafts of bylaws will address this idea of changing the terms of office.

- Transfer of Funds from the CE Academy Account to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund

Motion was made by Greg Soules to transfer \$5,000 from the CE Academy Fund to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund – Interest account. Bill Burnett seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- Election of Officers

Tom Zachman moved that Lauren Garduño succeed him as Chair immediately, that Greg Soules assume the office of Vice-Chair and that the Academy nominates a new secretary/treasurer. The floor was opened for nominations or a volunteer for Secretary/Treasurer. Tony Childress volunteered to become the next Secretary/Treasurer.

**All officers were elected by acclamation.**

Officers for 2005 - 2006

Chair – Lauren Garduño

V-Chair – Greg Soules

Secretary/Treasurer – Tony Childress

Last Item of Discussion: The question was asked whether or not Texas Tech was considering going to a blanket tuition, no matter how many or how few hours were taken. To the best of anyone's knowledge, Texas Tech University is not considering this.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Tom asked for a motion to adjourn. Rich Oller made the motion for the CE Academy Business Meeting to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Starcher, Business Manager

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY WILL BE SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2006.**