

MINUTES OF THE
CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY
March 31, 2007

Present: J. G. (Greg) Soules, Civil Engineering Academy Chair, Bob Bailey, Dale Cherry, Tony Childress, Frank Crumb, Bernie Gradel, A. C. Bowden, Frank Griffin, Jr., Stephanie Griffin, Bruce Kromer, Marc Levitan, T. Lynn Lovell, Dudley McFarquhar, Rich Oller, Gary Pettit, Steven Rae, Brian Schrader, Russell Schreiber, Brooke Smith, Jr., Rusty Thoma, Kyle Womack, Tom Zachman, H. Scott Norville, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (CEE) Chair, and Debbie Starcher, CEE Department Supervisor.

Call to Order

The twentieth annual meeting of the Civil Engineering Academy convened Saturday, March 31, 2007. Greg Soules, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Introductions

Greg opened the meeting and welcomed members and new inductees.

There are five new inductees to the Civil Engineering Academy. They are:

- Frank Crumb – Director, City of Fort Worth Water Department
- Frank Griffin, Jr. – Structural Engineer, Halff Associates
- Stephanie Wooten Griffin – Freese and Nichols' Water Resources Planning Group
- Marc L. Levitan – Director, Louisiana State University Hurricane Center and the Charles P. Siess, Jr. Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at LSU
- Russell Schreiber – Director of Public Works, City of Cleburne, Texas

Approval of the Minutes (Alan Greer resigned as Secretary/Treasurer)

The 2006 minutes were distributed to the Academy. After time was given for review, Tony Childress, Vice-Chair, asked for any comments. No comments were given. Greg asked for a motion to approve the April 8, 2006, minutes as written. Tony Childress moved to approve the minutes as written. Brian Schrader seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Tony Childress, Vice-Chair, presented the Fiscal Year 2006 Treasurer's Report.

Balances in the respective accounts are:

- Civil Engineering Academy – \$14,469.78
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment – \$165,275.69
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Interest – \$14,713.38

Six \$500 scholarships were awarded in FY 2006 to civil engineering students. In FY 2007, three \$1000 scholarships, one \$750 scholarship and four \$500 scholarships were awarded to civil engineering students from the CE Academy Scholarship Interest account.

Tony asked for any questions or discussion. It was questioned whether or not the six \$500 scholarships were awarded in FY 2007 as the report states or should this be FY 2006. This is an error. Tony Childress moved that the minutes reflect the change in the Treasurer's Report from FY 2007 to FY 2006, and the report be accepted as presented. Bernie Gradel so moved. Dudley McFarquhar seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Changes To Agenda

Greg Soules added two items to the agenda under Old Business.

Report on Endowment Fund

Purchase of plaque to recognize donors to the CE Scholarship Endowment Fund

Chairman's Report – Scott Norville

Highlights of the Chairman's report are:

*State of the Department

*Student Information

Undergraduate program: 470

Graduate program: 82

Departmental Scholarships

\$37,250 to undergraduate students

\$25,000 to graduate students

Degrees Awarded (2006)

Bachelor of Science: 76

Master of Science: 23

Ph.D.: 7

FE – 72% passing rate (Fall 2006); 70% passing rate (Spring 2006)

Salary Ranges

Government = \$40k - \$47k

Consulting Firms = \$45k - \$58k

Add \$5k - \$7k for M.S.

*Faculty Changes

New Faculty Members

Dr. William Lawson

Dr. Delong Zuo

Dr. Lianfa Song – will join the faculty in water resources in the fall

Faculty Searches

Water Resources

Transportation

Structures/Wind Area

Departing Faculty

Dr. David Thompson – resigned

Dr. Jim Gregory – retired

Dr. Chris Letchford - returning to Australia to become Chair of Engineering at the University of Tasmania

*Faculty Recognition

- University Recognitions
 - Audra Morse
 - ASCE ExCEEEd New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award
 - Alumni Association's New Faculty Award, College of Engineering Recipient
 - Hemphill Wells New Professor Excellence in Teaching Academy, Texas Tech Association of Parents
 - Heyward Ramsey
 - Halliburton Excellence in Teaching Award
 - Andrew Jackson
 - Co-author on the paper of the year in ES&T, the leading journal in Environmental Science and Technology

*Research Center Update

- WISE
 - Received \$1.25M Funding for Wind Energy Research
- TechMRT
 - Dr. Priyantha Jayawickrama resigned as Director of TechMRT
 - Mr. Phil Nash is the new Director
 - Submitted 18 proposals to TxDOT last week
 - Total Funds Requested: \$5.6M
 - Received some NHRP
- Water Resources Center
 - Received \$500,000 +/- in NASA funds
 - Proposing for big bucks in energy/water initiative
 - Lots of small grants
 - Andrew Jackson has \$1.94M in research over the last year
- Murdough Center
 - Still searching for Director of NIEE
 - Producing lots of short courses
 - Continuing to garner international acclaim

Old Business

Academy/Student Involvement – Greg asked Dr. Norville what the Academy could do to be involved with the students. Dr. Norville stated that the most important way the Academy could help is to have interaction with students who are less motivated.

The floor was opened for discussion. Ideas proposed were to have a student picnic after the academy meeting on Saturday; have a formal Co-op program; more participation in the job fair; internships, have a mini job fair in the spring to attract students who would be interested in an internship in the summer.

If you are interested in participating in the job fair, contact Shelli Crockett, Director, Co-op Program, College of Engineering, (806) 742-3451 or shelli.crockett@ttu.edu.

Action Item: Dr. Norville or Debbie will contact Dr. Audra Morse to find out if there is a resume book of students that can be distributed to Academy members, or if there is an ASCE website that will have postings of students resumes.

Capstone Design – Academy Involvement

Volunteers are needed to read one or more report/s and give feedback to Dr. Doug Smith and Dr. Cliff Fedler, instructors of CE 4330, Design of Engineering Systems. Feedback is needed on writing style, areas where the TEAM is weak, and what professionals would be looking for in a project. Dr. Smith and Dr. Fedler are also needing PE volunteers to sit in on TEAM presentations. Presentations are typically on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, before finals start. The reports are multi-discipline. If anyone is interested contact Doug Smith, CEE faculty member, at doug.smith@ttu.edu for further information.

ASCE Trailer

At the spring 2006 Advisory Council meeting, ASCE President, Nancy Gerrish, approached the Advisory Council to consider helping with the purchase of a trailer to transport the concrete canoe and the steel bridge to competitions. Five companies agreed to sponsor this project. The Advisory Council would like to report that the ASCE Student Chapter has their trailer.

Endowment Report

For the benefit of the new Academy members, Tom Zachman explained the goal of the Academy was 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. The goal was not reached, but the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment is now the largest endowment in the department. Tom stated that even though this is the conclusion of the campaign he hopes it is not the conclusion of giving to the endowment. The goal of this campaign was to increase the endowment so that larger scholarships (5-10K per student) could be awarded. The floor was opened for discussion. There is a concern that the goal of the endowment is not being met. A question was raised on how the interest is calculated and how it is distributed.

Action: Tom Zachman will contact Ken Rainwater, chair of the scholarship committee, to discuss increasing the amount of the scholarship awarded to each person. Tom is also going to contact Claudia Thornton, Assistant Development Officer and have her explain how the interest is calculated and distributed.

CE Academy Endowment Recognition Plaque

At the start of the three year campaign it was agreed upon that a plaque(s) would be purchased, at the end of the campaign, recognizing all who donated to this endowment. The plaque will show the four contribution levels. The plaque(s) will be funded by the CE Academy and displayed in the Civil Engineering reception area.

Tom Zachman made a motion that the CE Academy authorizes expenditure of approximately \$1,000 towards the purchase of a plaque that will recognize donors to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- Transfer of Funds from the CE Academy Account to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund – Interest Account
Tony Childress, acting treasurer, made a motion to transfer \$5,000 from the CE Academy Fund (4360-44-5897) to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment Fund – Interest account (416R-44-8375).

The floor was opened for discussion.

Items of discussion were to only transfer \$4,000 since \$1,000 will be spent on the recognition plaque. Should this \$4,000 be awarded to one person to meet the goal of the endowment? Tom Zachman will have discussion with Ken Rainwater and bring back for discussion in 2008. Should a minimum of \$1,000 scholarship be awarded?

Tony Childress amended his motion. The motion is to transfer \$4,000 from the CE Academy fund to the CE Academy Scholarship Endowment – Interest account and that each scholarship awarded should be a minimum of \$1,000. Bernie Gradel seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Election of Officers
The floor was opened for nomination of new officers. As per the CE Bylaws, Dudley McFarquhar moved that Tony Childress rotate to the position of Chairman. Bernie Gradel seconded the motion. The floor was opened for nominations for Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Jim McDonald nominated Dudley McFarquhar. Gary Pettit seconded the motion. Bernie Gradel nominated T. Lynn Lovell for Secretary/Treasurer. Tony Childress seconded the motion.

All officers were elected by acclamation.

Officers for 2007 - 2008

Chair – Tony Childress

V-Chair – Dudley McFarquhar

Secretary/Treasurer – T. Lynn Lovell

Closing Comments

Russell Schreiber proposed the idea of having the spring barbeque Dr. Norville usually hosts coincide with the academy induction weekend. This could be used as an opportunity for academy members to have interaction with students.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Greg asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was accepted to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Starcher, Business Manager

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY WILL BE
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008.**