

MINUTES OF THE  
CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY  
April 5, 2008

Present: Barry Allen, Rusty Thoma, Burton Clifton, Travis Waldrip, Bernie Gradel, Jr., Dale Cherry, Stephanie Griffin, Deborah Dixon, Frank Crumb, Bruce Kromer, Steve Rae, Rich Patrick, Brian Manning, Lawrence Jester, Sean Cochran, J. Greg Soules, Bob Bailey, Tony Childress, H. Scott Norville, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (CEE) Chair, and Debbie Starcher, CEE Department Supervisor.

**Call to Order**

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Civil Engineering Academy convened Saturday, April 5, 2008. Tony Childress, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Introductions**

Tony opened the meeting and welcomed members and new inductees.

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

- Barry Allen – Vice President, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant
- Sean Cochran – Senior Engineer, CB&I
- Lawrence Jester, Jr. – Sr. Transportation Engineer, Jacobs Carter Burgess, Inc.
- Brian Manning – Vice President, Sterling Construction, Inc.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The 2007 minutes were distributed to the Academy. After time was given for review, Tony Childress, in the absence of Lynn Lovell, Secretary/Treasurer, asked for any comments. No comments were given. Tony Childress moved to approve the March 31, 2007 minutes as written.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Discussion of Minutes:** Tony Childress suggested the acting Secretary/Treasurer publish the meeting minutes before the next meeting date. The minutes would be emailed to Academy members requesting their response for approval or disapproval. The minutes would then be posted on the CE Academy web page prior to next year's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Tony Childress, Chair, presented the Fiscal Year 2007 Treasurer's Report.

Balances in the respective accounts are:

- Civil Engineering Academy – \$14,037
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment – \$194,756
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Interest – \$18,699

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. Five \$750 scholarships and seven \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded in FY 2008.

Tony opened the floor for any discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Clarification was requested on where the funds actually go that are donated by Academy members. There are three separate accounts that the Academy operates from. They are:

Civil Engineering Academy – the academy's operating account which pays for the banquet, plaques, mailings, etc. or anything else that has to do with the yearly operation of the Academy. Money is also transferred from this account into the CE Academy Scholarship Fund. Any checks written to the CE Academy are deposited into this account.

Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment – this account is for checks written to CE Academy Scholarship Endowment. These funds grow the endowment and cannot be spent. Interest is transferred from this account to the CE Academy Scholarship Fund account.

Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Fund – this is the account scholarships are awarded from. Donations can be deposited into this account, but it does not earn as much interest as the endowment. At the spring academy meeting the decision is made whether or not to transfer funds from the operating account to the scholarship fund account.

The Treasurer's Report shows a large difference between FY 2007 private gifts and FY 2008 private gifts. Greg Soules asked if there has been a downward trend in receipt of donations from Academy members. Since all donations have not been recorded to date and there is still four months remaining in this fiscal year it is hard to answer this question. Greg Soules recommended an invoice be sent to Academy members reminding them to send their donation. Discussion was that instead of an invoice a friendly reminder should be sent. Tony asked Greg to make a motion. The motion was made that a friendly reminder be sent to Academy members to consider donating their \$100 every year. Bob Bailey seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Bob Bailey recommended a comment be added that this is consistent with the CE Advisory Council. They have also asked for a friendly reminder.

**Action:** Debbie Starcher was asked if she would be willing to send this letter out on behalf of the Academy. She agreed to do this but recommended it be from the acting Secretary/Treasurer instead of the CEE Department. Tony Childress agreed to this recommendation.

Rich Patrick commented that under Revenue for FY 2005 on the Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment it shows Interest and Interest Income. He asked if this should be Investment Income. Tony confirmed it should be and made a motion that the report be changed to Investment Income. Bob Bailey seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY OPERATING ACCOUNT**

Tony suggested maintaining the same transfer as in past years, between \$4,000 and \$5,000 since the Academy does not know how much the account will receive in donations between now and August 31. Recommendation is to mail a “friendly reminder letter” in early February encouraging receipt of donation by April 1 so transfer of funds is based upon what has been received. Tony agreed to help draft this letter.

Further discussion is whether to keep the transfer the same year-end and year out, and let the balance go up and down, or to keep the balance in the account at a minimum level and let the transfer fluctuate? Members present made the decision to set minimum balance and let transfer to scholarship fund fluctuate. This leaves a safe zone.

Tony made a motion that the Academy strive to leave a balance of \$7,500 for operations and everything else be transferred over to the Civil Engineering Scholarship fund. Steven Rae seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

After further discussion the previous motion was amended.

Tony made a new motion that a minimum of \$4,000 be transferred to the CE Academy Scholarship Fund, and Debbie Starcher have the discretion of increasing the transfer in \$500 increments if the money in the operating account exceeds \$7,500 after all expenses have been paid. Greg Soules seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Chairman’s Report – Scott Norville**

Highlights of the Chairman’s report are:

\*State of the Department

\*Student Information

Undergraduate program: 510

Graduate program: 116

Departmental Scholarships

\$36,500 to undergraduate students

\$34,500 to graduate students

Degrees Awarded (2007)

Bachelor of Science: 90

Master of Science: 20

Ph.D.: 3

FE – 81% passing rate (Fall 2006); 72% passing rate (Spring 2006); 64% passing rate (Fall 2007)

#### Salary Ranges

Government = \$42k - \$52k

Consulting Firms = \$37k - \$70k

Petroleum = \$58k – \$70k

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

#### \*Faculty Changes

##### New Faculty Members

Dr. Lianfa Song – joined the faculty in water resources in the fall

##### Faculty Searches

Water Resources

Transportation

Structures/Wind Area

##### Departing Faculty

Dr. John McEnery– resigned

Dr. Andrew Budek – resigned

Dr. Jim Gregory – retired

Dr. John Borrelli - retired

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

##### Anticipated Hires

Dr. Ted Cleveland, from University of Houston will join the water resources center as an associate professor

Negotiations are in process with two potential assistant professor candidates in environmental engineering & water resources

##### Ongoing Searches

One assistant professor in Structural Engineering

One assistant professor in Transportation Engineering

##### Tenure and Promotion

Board of Regents awarded Dr. Audra Morse tenure effective immediately and promotion to associate professor effective September 1, 2008

#### \*Faculty Recognition

- University Recognitions

- Audra Morse

- Inducted into the Texas Tech Teaching Academy

- Alumni Association's New Faculty Award, College of Engineering Recipient

- Hemphill Wells New Professor Excellence in Teaching Academy, Texas Tech Association of Parents

- Chuck Newhouse

- 2007 ASCE ExCEEEd New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

- Andrew Jackson

- Named the first "Ed and Linda Whitacre Faculty Fellow" by the College of Engineering (gives him the title for three years and \$12,000 per year discretionary funding)

- PI for TTU on a DoD research venture that the Strategic Environmental Response Development Program for DoD named the 2007 Project of the Year in the Environmental Restoration Focus Area
- Kishor Mehta
  - Recognized by College of Engineering for bringing in approximately \$500k in external research funding
- Sanjaya Senadheera
  - Will receive the Abell-Hanger Award later this month
- Nominated for Emeritus Status
  - John Borrelli
  - Jim Gregory
  - Jim McDonald
  - Kishor Mehta
  - Joe Minor
  - Tony Mollhagen
  - Bob Sweazy
  - C. V. G. Vallabhan
  - Penny Vann

**\*Staff Recognition**

- Glenna Andrews
  - President's Excellence in Academic Advising Individual Award 2007
- Debbie Starcher
  - Orval Leroy Lewis Outstanding Staff Award, College of Engineering 2006-2007

**\*Odds and Ends**

- CEE is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest department at TTU and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in COE
- CEE external funding levels are 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in COE
- CEE faculty published around 24 papers in 2007
- New Faculty Family Members
  - Charlie ZinHua – born to Bayer and Hongchao Liu, 10/31/20007
  - Braden Reid – born to Audra and Stephen Morse, 12/1/2007
  - William Henry – born to Natalia and Andrew Jackson, 3/16/2008

**Old Business**

**Academy/Student Involvement – Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Competition**

Tony asked Greg Soules to report on this topic. Other schools competing get external help, both financial and technical expertise.

Tony opened the floor discussion. Ideas proposed were:

- Have a faculty sponsor for these teams. The sponsor would have a point of contact list for the team who could give technical expertise.
- Need a foundation of consistent communication
- Faculty are already over committed and don't have time to be sponsors but could still have a list of technical support for the teams.

- Suggest students document what they do for future ASCE Student Chapter teams to refer back to. Each team is responsible for completing a report.
- Students can use outside sources to help with building bridge and canoe.
- How can Academy give financial support and technical expertise to the Team Captains?

**Action:** Tony volunteered to send an email to all Academy members requesting anyone who is interested in supporting the kids financially or technically in the bridge or canoe competition to let him know. We are looking for mentorship not someone to design the project. If interested let him know. The email will be shared with a couple of other members before going out to all. He will send the information to Dr. Norville for the ASCE Faculty Advisor.

### Scholarship Endowment

Didn't meet goal but have made great progress towards the goal. The Scholarship Committee is able to award minimum \$1,000 scholarships.

### New Business

#### Civil Engineering Academy Name Change

For consistency and in the support of the department the Academy agreed to change the name of the Academy to Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy. The bylaws will need changing to reflect the name change.

After discussion in which it was agreed that the objective is to align with the department, Dale Cherry moved that the Academy should change their name to the Civil and Environmental Academy. Deborah Dixon seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

A committee will need to be formed to change the bylaws. Dr. Norville volunteered to make the changes and send them out for approval by email. Those present agreed.

#### Scholarship Endowment

Deborah Dixon asked to address the Academy. As a member of the Advisory Council she has agreed to continue to try to keep educating and giving attention to the endowment. She requested volunteers from the Academy to work with her. Greg Soules and Tony Childress volunteered.

#### Election of Secretary/Treasurer

Bernie Gradel moved that Bruce Kromer fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Dale Cherry seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Officers for 2008-2009

Chair – Dudley McFarquhar

Vice Chair – T. Lynn Lovell

Secretary/Treasurer – Bruce Kromer

Closing Comments

Tony Childress recommended having something that people could sign their names on and put in front of them for future meetings. This will help in recognizing who is speaking.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was accepted to adjourn. Barry Allen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Starcher, Supervisor

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY WILL BE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009.**