

MINUTES OF THE
CIVIL and ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING ACADEMY
April 4, 2009
(Amended April 10, 2010)

Present: Bernie Gradel, Jr., Dale Cherry, Bruce Kromer, Brian Schrader, Tony Almeida, Terry Winn, Terry Bilderback, Kyle Womack, T. Lynn Lovell, Gopal Guthikonda, Dudley McFarquhar, Steve Rae, Janie Kenney, Vinu Abraham, Jason L. Swofford, Ty Thomas, Stephanie Griffin, Greg Soules, Joe D. Gamble, Phil Meaders, Rusty Thoma, Bob Bailey, H. Scott Norville, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (CEE) Chair, and Debbie Starcher, CEE Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy convened Saturday, April 4, 2009. Dudley McFarquhar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

Introductions

Dudley opened the meeting and had all present introduce himself/herself and tell where they are from, year graduated and year inducted.

There are seven new inductees to the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy. They are:

- Antonio (Tony) V. Almeida – Halff Associates
- David Bradley – Kellogg Brown & Root
- Joe Gamble – NASA Johnson Space Center and MEI Technologies
- Gopal Guthikonda – City of Austin Water Utility
- Janie Kenney – ExxonMobil
- Philip Meaders – Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam
- Jason Swofford – Hugo Reed and Associates

Approval of the Minutes

The 2008 minutes were distributed to the Academy. After time was given for review Dudley asked for any comments or discussion. There being none, Dudley asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Soules moved that the April 5, 2008 minutes be accepted as written. Bob Bailey seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Kromer presented the Fiscal Year 2008 Treasurer's Report.

Balances in the respective accounts are:

- Civil Engineering Academy – \$18,566
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Endowment – \$186,143
- Civil Engineering Academy Scholarship Interest – \$23,371

In FY 2008, seven \$1000 scholarships and five \$750 scholarships were awarded to civil engineering students from the CE Academy Scholarship Interest account. In FY 2009, CEE awarded \$18,500 in scholarships, one at \$250, seven at \$1,250, one at \$750 and four at \$2,000.

Discussion: For new members, there was discussion on the three different accounts associated with the CEE Academy. Tom Zachman explained the difference between the Academy Scholarship Endowment and the Academy Scholarship Fund. Explanations are below.

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 disbursement account scholarships are awarded from. Donations can be deposited into this account, but it does not earn as much interest as the endowment.

There was no further discussion. Terry made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as written. Bernie Gradel 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 - 2008

Undergraduate program: 586

Graduate program: 97

Departmental Scholarships

\$71,450 to undergraduate students

\$28,000 to graduate students

Degrees Awarded (2008)

Bachelor of Science: 79

Master of Science: 26

Ph.D.: 1

FE – 64% passing rate (Fall 2007); 71% passing rate (Spring 2008); 73% passing rate (Fall 2008)

Hiring Information

BSCE (December 2008 Data)

Range: \$38k to \$87k

Average: \$55.4k (20 Data Points)

Median: \$52k (20 Data Points)

Mean Signing Bonus: \$2350 (10 Data Points)

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

Graduate School – 3
No Jobs – 9
 3 (Had not begun interviewing)
 6 (Had been interviewing)

*Student Information

- Murdough Student Chapter of ASCE took 3rd Place in the Steel Bridge Competition (best performance ever)
- Participating in Concrete Canoe and Student Paper Contests

*Faculty Changes

New Faculty Members

Dr. Ted Cleveland – joined the faculty in water resources
Dr. Annette Hernandez – joined the faculty in water resources
Dr. Moon Won – joined the faculty in TechMRT

Faculty Searches

Jennifer Rice (nee Bridges) will join TTU in the fall
Will begin negotiation with a second structures candidate

Departing Faculty

Dr. Chuck Newhouse – left us for Virginia Military Institute

Tenure and Promotion

Board of Regents awarded Dr. Hongchao Liu tenure effective immediately and promotion to associate professor effective September 1, 2009 (1 year early)

*Faculty Recognition

- Sanjaya Senadheera
 - George T. and Gladys Abell-Hanger Faculty Award for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching
- Xinzhong Chen
 - Received a National Science Foundation grant for \$150,000
- Hongchao Liu
 - Appointed to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computing Applications for the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies
- Andrew Jackson
 - Named Whitacre Faculty Fellow for the College of Engineering

*Odds and Ends

- CEE is the 10th largest department at TTU and 2nd largest in COE
- CEE external funding levels are 2nd highest in COE
- CEE faculty published around 24 papers in 2007

ASCE Presentation

Daniel Albus – member of the Murdough Student Chapter of ASCE, gave a Power Point presentation on constructing the Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe. Steel Bridge came in 3rd place overall. Concrete Canoe competition is taking place this weekend. Other activity the Chapter is involved in is Habitat for Humanity, Arbor Day and Relay for Life. Daniel thanked the Advisory and Academy for all your support.

Old Business

CEE Operating Fund and Scholarship Funds – Dudley proposed reflecting on the funds that are in the operating budget and assign amount to move to scholarship funds. There is currently \$18,566 in the operating fund, but \$9,613 is in other income which is not eligible for allocation.

Dudley put a motion on the floor to transfer \$8,000 to the scholarship fund. Greg Soules moved the motion and Bernie Gradel seconded the motion.

Discussion:

- Since \$9,613 of the \$18,566 cannot be allocated there is not enough left to move \$8,000.
- Start with \$4,000 and leave enough to pay for expenses.
- Recommendation was made to not charge for the 2010 banquet in order to start spending the \$9,600 down.
- Give the cost of the banquet as part of your donation. This will alert Debbie to your reservation. Mark “donation” on check.
- Should the transfer be split between the Scholarship Endowment and the Scholarship Fund?

Tom Zachman made a motion to amend Dudley’s motion. The new motion is to split the \$8,000 with half going to the endowment and half going to the scholarship fund. Terry Winn seconded the motion. After further discussion and a vote the motion did not carry.

Brian Schrader made a motion to amend the motion made by Tony Childress at the 2008 meeting. The new motion is that the Academy strive to leave a balance of \$5,000 instead of \$7,500 for operating and expenses. Tony Almeida seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

Tom Zachman moved to designate \$10,000 from the Academy operating budget to be split evenly between the scholarship endowment and the scholarship fund. Terry Winn seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

Action:

The fall letter mailed to the Academy will explain that the amount for your banquet reservation should be noted as a “donation” and not sent in a separate check. The funds in “other income” will pay for the 2010 banquet. The amount given in addition to your donation will be your reservation.

New Business

Election of Officers

The bylaw process is for current officers to move up one spot and elect a Secretary/Treasurer. Lynn Lovell asked to recuse himself from serving as Chair in 2010.

Brian Schrader volunteered to be the new Secretary/Treasurer for 2010 if Dudley would remain Chair. Dudley agreed to this proposal. Bruce Kromer will move up to Vice Chair.

Officers for 2009-2010

Chair – Dudley McFarquhar

Vice Chair – Bruce Kromer

Secretary/Treasurer – Brian Schrader

Closing Question and Discussion

Vinu Abraham – What should the next step be in getting the Academy to raise the Academy Scholarship Endowment to \$300,000. It was recommended that each year someone volunteer to take on this task. This should be a line of discussion at next year's meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Dudley asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was accepted to adjourn by Greg Soules. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Starcher, Supervisor

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY WILL BE
SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010.**