

CIAC BOARD MEETING – SPRING 2016
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
APRIL 8, 2016

Dave Fleming, Incoming CIAC President, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed the 35 members with special recognition of those new members who were attending their first CIAC meeting. He introduced special guests, Jim Thompson and Harold Adams. As the CIAC Vice President, Dave Fleming had served on the Dean's Advisory Council with both men, and spoke highly of the efforts that were made to advance the creation of a leadership minor.

Both Jim Thompson and Harold Adams addressed the meeting and related each of their personal stories and professional experiences that were the basis for their desire to see a leadership program for students in the College of Architecture. COSC will begin offering a Minor in Leadership in the fall of 2016. The first class offering will be in the fall 2016 with COSC 310 - Design and Construction Leadership Education I that will include promotion of personal leadership skills utilized within the design and construction professions; primary understanding and developing management skills with specific attention to developing personal attributes and skills necessary for achieving organizational goals. Both Jim and Harold will be guest speakers during the course with invitations for other industry professional to participate.

Joe Horlen reviewed the meeting agenda and provided direction on the desired outcomes from the committee meetings as well as the student focus groups. He contrasted the 1999 CIAC Report with the just released 2014-2015 CIAC Report, and expressed gratitude to the CIAC members for having achieved the various goals and objectives that were established in 1999. It is now time to work together to set new goals and objectives for the future. Joe also informed the members on the various construction excellence awards on the state and national level that had been received by Satterfield & Pontikes for the Francis Hall Renovation Project. He invited all those who have yet to see the building to visit the new home of construction education at Texas A&M. This was one of the important goals that the CIAC had over 15 years ago. He also informed the attendees of the opportunity to participate in a Texas A&M University Matching Endowed Chair program with a contribution of \$500,000 over a five year period. There are currently ten \$1 million chairs available. The department has recently learned that it has more veteran students than any department on campus. There are plans for the summer 2017 to participate in a summer camp as part of the Warrior to Scholar Program.

Sarel Lavy updated the CIAC members on the facilities management minor and the need for industry support for the required FM internship. He explained the differences between the facilities management and the construction oriented internship with the FM internship consisting of working with a FM company or organization that operates, maintains, or repairs existing facilities.

Larry Fickel spoke on the positive impacts that have been made through the funds that have been contributed to the COSC Student Assistance Fund that was started in 2010. The students that have been helped were truly surprised and grateful for the financial support that was provided. The membership was encouraged to donate to the fund.

Martin Montgomery, COSC '16, gave a history and overview of recent projects completed by the Aggie BUILD organization on campus. The current effort is the conversion of standard shipping containers into mobile medical clinics that are shipped to poor, undeveloped areas of the world. A large percentage of the students involved with Aggie BUILD are COSC students. Martin requested the membership consider a financial contribution to the projects.

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At this point in the schedule, the committees went to the respective meeting rooms to resume with their assigned meeting tasks and discussions.

At 11:00 a.m., four of the committees began their focus group meetings with freshmen, juniors, seniors and graduate students.

Following lunch the meeting resumed with an industry relations report and individual committee reports on their assigned tasks and discussions.

George Eustace updated the members on the final 2015 CIAC membership of 167 companies. Twenty-one new members have joined for 2016, and 143 of the 167 existing members have renewed for 2016 for a current total of 164 members. Participation in the career fairs was high but steady with 141 CIAC and 13 non-CIAC companies coming to the career fairs. There was a noticeable decline in the participation by oil, gas and energy related companies. Job placement remains high at near 93% with an average starting salary of \$59,212. The support of the CIAC membership in the hiring of graduates (80%) and interns (89%) illustrated the importance of the CIAC to the program. There are 212 interns out during the spring 2016 semester. The winning team and best presenter from the semester's ethics team competition were announced.

Each committee reported out on their assigned committee topics and issues.

The Budget Committee presented the close out of the 2015 budget:

- The revenue exceeded the budget by \$73, 309.
- The expenses were \$70,948 less than budgeted
- The retained earnings that were carried over to 2016 was \$158,801.
- One approved endowed matching scholarships had not yet been funded

The Budget Committee presented the updated 2016 budget:

- The budgeted income from memberships of \$376,000 was exceeded by \$13,750 with 164 membership to date.
- Limited expenses have been incurred due to the early point in the year.
- The Annual Banquet and half of the Research Studies line items were funded.
- A proposal was made, seconded and approved to add a \$10,000 expense line item to the budget for a donation to "Aggie BUILD".

A third-party, independent review of the CIAC financial accounts for 2014 and 2015 was completed.

The Curriculum Committee worked with Shelley Smith, undergraduate program coordinator, and Shannon Degenhart, assessment program coordinator, and provided the department with its input on the efforts underway to enhance the department's assessment processes regarding former student and employer surveys. A key metric is needed for assessing the level of career success for former students, and the committee provided input on survey questions that could be used in a survey. Surveys of former students and employers are scheduled for a five-year cycle.

The Membership Committee reviewed and recommended that associate memberships be extended to the International Facilities Management Association, Houston Chapter, and to the American Society of

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Healthcare Engineers. The recommendation was approved. Both organizations will be helpful in supporting the internship requirement for the minor in facilities management. There is a need for increased memberships in the CIAC by companies that can provide facilities management focused internships. As a result, the committee recommended that CIAC members talk with facilities management companies and service providers, as well as facility owners that they have in their networks to encourage their participation in the FM internship program. The creation of a “leave behind” document or a short video on the FM Minor and the internship requirement was recommended to promote the program to companies.

The Development Committee was tasked to develop ideas on how the CIAC could best support a fundraising effort to seek funding commitments for the \$500,000 needed to be awarded one of the ten available Texas A&M University \$1 million matching endowed chairs. Former students that have been recognized as members of the “Aggie 100” should be contacted for pledges.

The Graduate Program and Research Committee reviewed the contract with and the results obtained from the existing outside consulting contract for reviews of grant submissions, and made a recommendation that \$12,500 be budgeted for another year. The recommendation was voted on and approved. The committee reviewed three research proposals from COSC tenure-track faculty. The committee recommended funding in the amount of \$12,500 to Professor Kunhee Choi for his proposal to develop automated traffic flow and construction zone management on federally funded highway projects. The recommendation was voted on and approved. The committee also discussed the industry needs for continuing education courses.

Student Focus Groups

The graduate studies and research, curriculum, development and membership committees met with students and conducted student focus group meetings.

The issues or concerns expressed included:

Juniors

- More group assignments at the lower levels prior to upper level classes
- Leadership course with some out of class experiences
- Use of Facebook and Instagram to transmit COSC events rather than email
- MEP classes more closely related
- More experience with plan reading before taking estimating classes
- Faculty with industry experience is a plus
- More bridging on individual responsibility for lower level
- Estimating I & II classes need TAs with ability to explain plan reading

Seniors

- Good comments on internship and Francis Hall
- Very positive on faculty with industry experience
- Areas of improvement were on industry software, leadership, MEP I & II and hands on learning experiences

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Freshmen

- No complaints
- Bring more industry in COSC 175 classes
- Provided some input on assessment

Graduate Students

- Would like summer classes be made available
- Generally pleased with classes
- Would like ability to specialize
- Expectations of MSCM graduates in the market place and salaries

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.