

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2014
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 24, 2014

Bob Flowers, President, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by greeting the 43 members in attendance from 36 member companies, and thanking them for their commitment to the program by finding time in their demanding schedules. A special welcome was extended to those who were attending their first CIAC meeting as a representative from either a new 2014 member or as a representative of an existing member. The number of new representatives that are recent graduates of the COSC program was noted. The meeting was held in one of the larger ballrooms at the Hilton Hotel in lieu of the Brazos Amphitheater. There were favorable comments on the amount of space and ease of movement in the larger room with tables and chairs instead of auditorium tiered seating.

Joe Horlen reviewed the meeting agenda and requested the membership input on several key issues to the program. For the first time, the meeting agenda was arranged for a meeting adjournment after lunch in lieu of the customary 3:00 p.m. time. The individual committees had their normal assigned issues, but were also asked to address “The Meaning of Interdisciplinary and Collaboration within the College of Architecture”. The committees’ input on this issue will be provided to the Dean’s Advisory Council.

During the department head update presentation, Joe Horlen described the progress that has been made on the Francis Hall Renovation Project with current photographs of the interior upgrades and finishes. As a result of the success of the capital campaign for Francis Hall, \$5,147,474 has been raised for design, construction, equipment and furniture. There is a possibility that any extra funds could be used to establish a maintenance endowment. First classes in Francis Hall will be held in January 2014 with an open house event to be scheduled during the spring.

The department will be hosting the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) 2015 Conference April 22 – 25, 2015 with the theme of “Future Technology – Changing Construction Practices”.

The individual members were asked to complete a survey on the program objectives and design for a Leadership Development Program that is being considered by the College of Architecture. The program is an issue currently under review by the Dean’s Advisory Council.

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The department exceeded the assigned program growth target set, by the university for student enrollment with a Fall 2014 enrollment of 863 undergraduates and 96 graduate students exceeding the 925 student target. Several other programs of construction education are seeing a decline in enrollment. A total of 270 new students enrolled for the fall semester. Continued progress is being made to meet the targets for time to graduation and number of graduates. Increased admissions of transfer students will address the time to graduation target. As the increasing number of students progress to graduation, the target number of 240 graduates each year will be exceeded. The quality of the internship program meets the requirement for providing our students with an enhanced learning experience.

The department has a faculty search in progress for 3 to 6 faculty members with a mix of tenure track, instructional professors and lecturers.

The financial gifts from the CIAC to the COSC program since the CIAC was formed in 1999 total a current value of \$12,856,202. The number of endowed scholarships has grown from 20 to 72 with some of the scholarships large enough for awards to more than one student.

Dave Fleming updated the meeting on his participation in the Dean's Advisory Council (DAC). The biggest issues being considered by the DAC are: 1) A leadership component for students, 2) Interdisciplinary courses on collaboration between departments and 3) equity and adjustments to department budgets.

George Eustace presented an industry relations report covering the continued growth in the CIAC membership, increases in the career fair participation, and CIAC support of the internship program. Job placement statistics for spring 2014 graduates was 88% with average starting salaries of \$57,800. The CIAC 2014 membership is 151 companies with 45 new members from a wide range of industry sectors. The career fair participation reached a new record for companies with 137 and 30 companies registered for the CIAC and the non-CIAC events respectively. A significant trend shows the CIAC member participation increasing as well as the non-CIAC member participation. Prior to the economic downturn in 2009, the number of CIAC companies increased as the non-CIAC companies decreased. The number of interns with CIAC companies reached a new high with 90% of the 78 interns working for CIAC member

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companies. The membership in the Texas A&M Construction Science Group on LinkedIn stands at 2,177 members.

The various committee meetings convened at 9:45 a.m. in their assigned meeting spaces.

The budget committee reviewed the 2014 budget and the proposed 2015 budget. The membership committee met to review the career fair planning. The research and graduate program committee met for an update on the 2014 research grant and consider funding of a consulting contract for research proposal training in 2015. The curriculum committee reviewed the assessment tools and student learning outcomes for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing courses. The development committee discussed guidelines for a proposed “company day” program for when the department moves to Francis Hall.

Following their assigned committee agenda items, each committee developed a list of issues and concerns regarding the common topic of “The Meaning of Interdisciplinary and Collaboration in the College of Architecture”.

The full council membership reconvened at 11:00 a.m. for committee reports.

The Budget Committee reported that the projected totals in the 2014 Budget will allow for funding of the \$75,000 transfer of funds to the CIAC Endowed Support Fund account. There was discussion of the two remaining endowed matching scholarships that are available for 2014. One of the two remaining scholarships has a potential donor. Any company interested in an endowed matching scholarship should contact Larry Zuber, the development officer for the College of Architecture. The proposed 2015 Budget was presented and approved as submitted.

The Curriculum Committee commented on the assessment of the MEP student learning outcomes and noted the efforts to create more consistency between Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Systems I (COSC 325) and Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Systems II (COSC 326) with an increased focus on the application and installation of MEP systems. The importance of the MEP topics is supported by the large percentage of a project cost that MEP systems represent. Breaking down the MEP topics into separate HVAC, plumbing and electrical was discussed. There was a suggestion that all faculty should attend an MEP “boot camp”.

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The Development Committee presented its recommendations on the guidelines for the proposed “Company Day” program. There was support in the use of the two student work rooms adjacent to the student center for company use during the day. The number of company representatives should be limited to 2 to 3 people. While in the building, companies could be asked to enhance the existing courses as guest speakers. The date assignment process will need to take into consideration the higher demand prior to the career fairs, and a lottery system may be the more fair method. The idea of assigning priority for those companies that have a history of hiring graduates was mentioned. The recommendation was to tie the date selection to the CIAC membership renewal process where members could pick a date once a calendar of available dates is developed. The department’s ability to handle a surge in renewals would need to be evaluated. The presence of a company on their assigned date can be advertised on the video monitors in the building and at student chapter meetings. A company’s assigned day, classroom guest speaker dates, and student chapter presentations should be coordinated to ensure all CIAC companies have an equal opportunity. The goal would be to not be disruptive to the normal academic day. Limited space for marketing displays may be available in the Exhibit Hall area on the first floor. Food and gifts should be limited and discouraged as this day should be informational in nature, not directly recruiting. A survey of students should be made for their input on the company day program.

The Membership Committee reported out on their review of the career fair events noting the event was well done and the venue works well. The flow of company representatives through the lunch line could be phased by having two lunch periods. Since the number of companies staying and conducting interview on Friday is small, moving to a smaller venue on Friday may be considered. The companies that are not considering resumes from international students need to serve notice to these students. Some training to companies on the hiring of international students should be considered. It would be helpful for companies to obtain resumes earlier from students. As a separate item addressed later in the meeting, a motion was made, seconded and approved to extend an invitation to the International Facilities Management Association, San Antonio Chapter to become an associate member of the CIAC.

The Graduate Studies and Research Committee received a report from Professor Ben Bigelow on his research grant. The objective of the research grant was to identify the issues and topics that the industry

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is most interested in seeing researched by the COSC faculty. A survey of 27 companies and 57 responses was conducted and the topics prioritized. A copy of the research report was distributed after the meeting. In regards to the 2015 funds for research, the committee supported a recommendation to seek out a consultant to train and assist faculty on obtaining research grant funding. A potential vendor is Grant Training Consultants, in Arlington, VA. The committee recommended that \$25,000 in the 2015 budget be allocated to funding the consultant contract for one year with an annual review and revision as needed. A motion was made to approve the funding recommendation by Bob Flowers and seconded by Richard Palmer. The motion was voted and approved.

The following items were proposed by the various committees in response to their assignment to develop issues regarding “The Meaning of Interdisciplinary and Collaboration in the College of Architecture:

- Start with the name of the college to enhance the understanding of the meanings of the terms.
- The College of Architecture summer “CAMP ARCH” would be a good place for an emphasis on interdisciplinary efforts. The early learning of teamwork is important. There should be more joint classes in the earlier years of each program. Encourage more early collaboration in classes.
- The issue exists within the working environment and guest lectures should address this issue and bring in the classroom where the topic is best learned. Construction guest lecturers should invite their design counterparts to join them for a joint presentation.
- The importance and emphasis must come from the top and filter down to the faculty, and encourage more faculty collaboration.
- Competitions teams, both internal and external, could be used to foster an appreciation of interdisciplinary collaboration. Student chapters should look for opportunities of joint efforts such as Big Event and Habitat of Humanity.
- The emphasis and convenience to foster the concepts will be harder with the move to Francis Hall
- The CIAC members should look within our role to lead the effort with involvement from design and construction industries. A CIAC committee to guide the effort could be considered.
- Establishing partnerships with vendor/suppliers could lead into interdisciplinary with the addition of developers and lenders

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- Support and attend DBIA capstone, or create an RFP for a capstone class that requires the construction review of studio design products.
- Use field trips to sites where multi-degree programs are evident
- Look for ways that the COSC BIM and Viz Dept can work together on projects
- Study George Mann's efforts and implement similar programs.

Following the committee report, Dean Jorge Vanegas addressed the group and provided his perspective on the State of the College of Architecture. The focus is to be aligned and responsive to upper level mandates in order to have a place at the table on university issues. He commented on the mandated COA strategic plan that is being developed with a draft to be distributed to those interested. The key issue is what we can do together as four departments. The three core areas of focus are:

- Quality of people, place, participation, partnerships
- Teaching, research and service
- Competing for resources with other departments

Dean Vanegas recognized that there some built-in inequities that Professor Horlen is championing as a department head. In citing the current culture of metrics of excellence, it was noted that the Construction Science Department has carried those metrics concerning students with its growth in enrollment. Other metrics that must be addressed in the COA are learning outcomes that are key to accreditation, faculty performance in teaching, research and service, diversity and research. He informed the group that a new capital campaign would be starting, with the contributions to the Francis Hall Renovation project being accredited to the Construction Science Department.

The CIAC voted unanimously to write a letter to Dean Venages supporting Joe Horlen as Department Head for an additional four years. Bob Flowers closed the meeting by expressing his appreciation to Joe Horlen for his excellent leadership of the Construction Science Department, and looked forward to working with him for his two years as CIAC President.

The membership adjourned for lunch 12:00 p.m. with the conclusion of the scheduled meeting agenda.