

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2015
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 23, 2015

Bob Flowers, President, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by greeting the 40 members in attendance from 38 member companies, and thanking them for their commitment to the program and making the CIAC the largest and best industry advisory board in the nation. Those who were attending their first CIAC meeting were asked to stand and introduce themselves, and receive a special welcome. Continued growth in the membership and career fair participation is a great indicator of where the program is today with many good things ahead. He spoke of the pleasure he had to be a guest speaker in an Estimating I class, and encouraged the membership to seek out such opportunities.

Joe Horlen was pleased to see such a large number of first time meeting attendees, and also thanked them for coming considering the stormy weather that many had to encounter. He reviewed the assigned tasks for each of the committees and stressed the importance of gaining the memberships input on the update to the department's strategic plan. He noted that the department enjoys the participation of 200 guest speakers each year. Plans are underway to invite a special guest speaker to address the students in spring 2016. Suggestions on who to invite as a special guest speaker were welcomed. The individual members were asked to complete an employer survey on the Graduate Program as part of a requirement for industry and employer data in support of the accreditation process

Harold Adams, Visiting Professor in the College of Architecture was introduced. Mr. Adams is a world renowned architect and leader who retired as chairman of RTKL. He was specially selected to spend a year as a member of the College of Architecture faculty to observe the college and its four departments and to make recommendations on positive actions to undertake to enhance the programs and move forward. He gave the members a brief overview of his extensive professional career that included design and program management of the JFK Memorial. He learned early in his career the value of interdisciplinary cooperation between architects, engineers and constructors. He stressed the importance of business classes for all team members. He expects to publish his report to Dean Vanegas in two months with recommendations on how to increase the level of interdisciplinary interaction between the four departments with more joint classes in the lower level course as well some interdisciplinary courses. Harold also suggested that the departments and the College of Architecture develop a succession plan for faculty as well as administrators. He fielded questions from the membership on the topics of creativity, and the need for more faculty members to be agents of change.

The individual committees had assigned issues, but were also asked to review and provide feedback on the assigned sections of the department's strategic plan.

During the lunch break, members of the winning teams in the Fall 2015 Ethics Team Competition were introduced.

Following lunch, the members reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Joe Horlen began his remarks by announcing the planned retirement of Professor Bob Segner in May 2016 after 46 years of service. The members were invited to view and sign a special book that was assembled to document the Francis Hall project and recognition of Professor Segner's contributions to the program. The slide presentation opened with a video of Professor Segner leading COSC students in a BTHO Alabama yell on the steps of Francis Hall. Members were invited to visit Francis Hall that has awards at the state level from ABC and AGC. The six new faculty members were introduced. A faculty search is in progress

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2015
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 23, 2015

and the members were encouraged to spread the word to those in their professional networks. Information on how the program has grown from 757 students in 2013 to 1090 in 2015 was presented along with the success in the admissions of freshman, change or majors and transfer students. The department has an active recruitment effort underway at the community and junior college level. High school recruiting is being focused in the Rio Grande Valley area as will be explained by Professor Miro Escamilla. The members were also encouraged to promote the program through their family, friends and associates. The financial impact of the CIAC on the program was highlighted by the growth of endowed funds to a total of \$6.09M. The individual members were asked to complete a survey on the Graduate Program as part of a requirement for industry and employer data in support of the accreditation process

Professor Escamilla presented information on the program he is leading to create and promote a Construction Management Academy consisting of seven, five-day career exploration events for high school students to introduce them to construction careers and educate them on how to pursue a college degree. CIAC members were asked to consider sponsoring one of the seven week long events that will target college ready students in thirty high schools in the Rio Grande Valley area. The department is seeing some success in the recruitment of students attending the Construction Management Camps that are held each summer on campus with 27% of the students applying for admission. Each student in the camp is presented with a letter from the department head granting the student a \$1,000 scholarship if they apply for admission and are admitted into the program.

George Eustace updated the members on the growth in CIAC memberships to 167 companies from 150 members in 2014. Participation in the career fairs remains high with a record of a combined 170 companies from the two career fairs this fall. The names of the 34 new CIAC members were listed and showed a growth in the size and variety of new companies. Job placement remains high at near 100% with an average starting salary of \$59,600. The support of the CIAC membership in the hiring of graduates (87%) and interns (92%) illustrated the importance of the CIAC to the program. The number of interns has increasing from 179 in 2013 to 194 in 2014 and 237 in 2015, with a projection of over 350 in 2016. Membership in the Texas A&M Construction Science Group on LinkedIn is at 2,440 with an average of 350 new members each year.

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

The Budget Committee presented the updated 2015 budget and recommended the following changes:

- Increase the endowed matching scholarship line item from \$60,000 to \$100,000.
- Transfer \$75,000 to the CIAC Support Fund
- Increase the endowed professorship from \$50,000 to \$60,000
- Add a line item of \$2,500 for sponsorship of the ASC Conference held in April 2015

A motion was made, seconded and approved for the above recommended changes to the 2015 budget.

The Budget Committee presented the proposed 2016 budget. The budget is based upon revenue from 150 members, and projected interest income. Noted changes from the 2015 budget included:

- Transfer of \$100,000 to the CIAC Support Fund to be reviewed at Fall 2016 meeting
- Setting aside \$20,000 toward the \$60,000 needed to match an endowed professorship
- Increasing the CIAC meeting expense line item from \$20,000 to \$22,000
- Increasing the CIAC Tailgate event from \$6,000 to \$7,500

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2015
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 23, 2015

- Adding a line item of \$750 for a financial review of CIAC accounts.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the proposed 2016 budget.

Subsequent to the approval of the budget, the opening retained earnings shown for the 2015 Budget was revised from \$126,534 to \$130, 531. This resulted in a projected retained earnings from the 2015 Budget into 2016 Budget of \$90,446.

The Curriculum Committee presented its work on the proposed Leadership Certificate program and made recommendations on topics to be covered in the four 1-hour class sessions at the junior or senior level, and other existing 300 and 400 level classes. A focus would be on development of soft skills such as conflict resolution and negotiation, building relationships, thinking outside the box, communication skills (both written and verbal), people management, and law, with the inclusion of a possible service project. A case study on a leader should also be considered.

The Development Committee presented their recommendations on increasing the number of matching endowed scholarships at the same current amount of \$10,000 in lieu of matching increases to existing endowed scholarships. The committee made recommendations for the special guest speaker be construction industry focused by at a global level that has name recognition. A list of prospective speakers was provided. Suggestions included James Benham's technology event, Mike Rowe, the Aggie at Google, Colin Powell, Bill Gates, Jason Jennings and Jim Knight of Hard Rock Café.

The Membership Committee provided to Joe Horlen a slate of three nominations for the next award of the Constructor Hall of Fame. The committee recommended that recognition of those who worked on Kyle Field be limited to those with a direct connection with the COSC department such as former students. A list of names of all Aggies involved on the project should be developed with information from Greg McClure and Bill Vaughn. The people involved should be added to a plaque for installation at Kyle Field or Francis Hall, and updated as required for additional names as they are identified. The committee presented Joe Horlen with nominations for committee chairs and executive committee officers. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the following:

Dave Fleming, Sundt, - President
Jeremy Stovall, Brookstone – Vice President\Budget Committee Chair
Brent Blake, Balfour Beatty – Membership Chair
Leland Rocchio, Jordan Foster – Graduate Program and Research Chair
Brent Ballard, Marek Brothers - Curriculum

The Graduate Program and Research Committee presented the committee's work on the research budget recommending the scope of the existing outside consulting contract be amended to provide for review of grant submissions and funded at \$12,500. A call for research proposals will go out the COSC faculty for the remaining \$12,500 funds in the 2016 budget with the focus to be on topics identified in the previous project conducted by Ben Bigelow. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the above budget recommendations. The research proposal should be tied back to industry needs.

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2015
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 23, 2015

Strategic Plan Input

Each committee was tasked to review one of the five sections of the existing COSC Strategic Plan. A summary of the committees' comments were as follows:

Program

Primary goal is the search for the next department head with strong industry participation and involvement before the change of the college dean. The CIAC should assist in the development of the desired qualifications to ensure the selectee has industry experience.

The department should continue to build upon its industry connections and support to continue to grow the number and size of endowments to include the identification of a "shopping list" of projects.

The department and its industry partners should reach out to high schools and present students with the advanced technical tools in use by the construction industry using younger industry professionals and senior COSC students.

The department should continue to meet the ACCE accreditation requirements and provide input on curriculum by reviewing testing methods and content.

Institute a "subject matter expert" guest program for each COSC class from the CIAC membership whereby an industry representative observes class presentations and provides feedback to the department.

Undergraduate Program

Develop courses to help students with expressing communication with precision while being concise

- Incorporate Project/Managerial Accounting (cost projections, billings, over/under billings)
- Keep current with the technology used in industry as it changes
- Develop a Risk Management / Risk Transfer Course
- Require student to write a contract and interpret contracts

The committee questioned the University goal grow to 80,000 students over the next 5-10 years that by quick math equates to approximately 1,400 students in the department. The continued growth is supported by industry demands therefore growth should continue as long as quality of students does not suffer by:

- Maintaining student to instructor ratio
- Recruiting high quality instructors
- Developing a succession planning for instructors
- Integrating more non tenure instructors (Industry Instructors)
- Maintaining and increasing faculty
- Continue to maintain a high GPA standard (3.0 or above) for Transfer Students
- Promote more interdisciplinary collaboration at all levels (students and staff)
- Possibly re-introduce mandatory collaboration classes (level 100 & 200 courses)
- Meet the growing need for Facility Management with FM degree instead of just a minor
- Research why other programs have decreased in size to gain lessons learned

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2015
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 23, 2015

- Create a DBIA type of competition in the College of Architecture

Graduate Program and Research

Attract more military students

Grow and attract more domestic students

Enrich classes with risk management, contracting, leadership, cash management, bonding , insurance

Create industry connections

Service and Extension

Reach out to smaller contractors for greater participation and involvement to get members to stay and be active in CIAC

Each member of the CIAC to reach out to three companies that they do business with that are non-members of CIAC and who could be more active in CIAC as many companies that participate in career fairs.

Prior to adjournment, the members were invited to provide their assessment and provide feedback on the issues contained in Harold Adams remarks during the morning session. In support of the goal of more interdisciplinary teams, a national design-build competition should be held. There was discussions on how more collaboration could be achieved. It was recommended that more joint lecture series be held next fall with guest speakers from the different disciplines.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.