

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2016
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
OCTOBER 21, 2016

Dave Fleming opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed the 40 members present with special recognition of those new members who were attending their first CIAC meeting. He introduced Dean Jorge Vanegas who extended his greetings and appreciation for the outstanding support that the CIAC provides to the Construction Science Department. This support has been very important in support of the Francis Hall project that was needed to meet the growth in the department's enrollment.

Elton Abbott, Associate Dean for International Programs and Initiatives, and Chair of the Construction Science Department Head Search Committee addressed the group and explained how the committee was formed, and stated that the search process is very clear and in accordance with university policy that requires strict compliance with the Search Manual. The search is international, and industry and student support is welcome to encourage people to apply. The search committee has established the applicant evaluation criteria and will now begin to review the 27 applications that have been received. There is quality in the applications. The committee will rank the applicants independently prior to an open discussion among the committee members to create a short list of no fixed number for telephone interviews. The telephone interviews will start the second week of November. The questions that will be asked of each applicant were developed by the committee. The next step after the telephone interviews will be committee meetings to decide on a short list of candidates to invite for a campus visit. Meetings with the applicants during the campus visits will be open. A poll will be taken to gain input on whether an applicant is considered acceptable or not. At least two candidates need to be provided to Dean Vanegas. The successful applicant must understand and balance the three components of teaching, research and service. The search process is not secret, but is confidential. Applicants can reveal to others that they have applied for the position, but otherwise their identifies will be held in confidence.

Joe Horlen reviewed the meeting agenda and provided direction on the desired outcomes from the committee meetings as well as the faculty focus groups. This is the first time for scheduling the faculty focus groups. It will be a good opportunity for those faculty that have joined the department in the last two years to gain input from the CIAC members as well as a chance to express their goals and observations. He noted that the budget is in great shape and preparation of a 2017 proposed budget should go smoothly.

Four COSC students that were part of the summer 2016 study abroad program in the United Kingdom explained their work on the Constructionarium project by discussing the project team organization, schedule, safety and estimate. The team stated the project was helpful in combining their classroom lessons with hands-on field experience. Similar study abroad teams are planned for spring break in March 2017 and during the summer 2017 study abroad program.

Larry Zuber, Assistant Vice President for Development, updated the members on the status of the university's "Lead by Example" capital campaign that began in 2012 and will end in 2020 with a goal of \$4 billion. The College of Architecture goal is \$30 million with \$14.4 million accounted to date. To date the Construction Science Department is well ahead on achieving its portion of the college goal with \$6.1 million donated of which Francis Hall was \$3.4 million. Larry Zuber explained the variety of methods that are available to contribute to the capital campaign. The former students in age group 55 to 75 total approximately 2,200. By 2020 this age group will include approximately 4,200. The potential for planned giving is greatest within this age group.

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Marshall Grey, Chief Operating Officer for Aggie BUILD presented the status of the 2016 efforts to complete four medical clinics and support containers. Appreciation was expressed for the \$10,000 gift that was contributed to this effort, and also for the \$25,000 gift from Southwestern Energy that was received as a result of the promotion of the Aggie BUILD organization among industry partners. COSC students are well represented in the Aggie BUILD leadership team and volunteer workers. A gala event is planned for December 3, 2016, and invitations have been extended to the CIAC. The eight previously completed containers have been deployed around the world and thus adding to the saying “The sun never sets on Aggieland.”

George Eustace updated the members on the final 2016 CIAC membership of 188 companies. Forty-two new members have joined for 2016, and 146 of the 167 existing members renewed for 2016. The spring career fair set a new record for CIAC member participation with 159 companies. The number of companies coming to the second career fair for non-CIAC members remained small with 13 companies. This is a result of new companies that call seeking information on hiring interns and graduates being encouraged to join the CIAC and participate in the first career fair. Job placement remains high at 93% with an average starting salary of \$59,219. The support of the CIAC membership in the hiring of graduates (89%) and interns (92%) illustrates the importance of the CIAC to the program. There are 117 interns out during the fall 2016 semester. There has been a shift in the locations of the internships with the Dallas\Fort Worth area seeing 34% and Houston hosting 26% of the interns. Based upon current projections, 170 interns are expected in the spring 2016. This is a positive trend in balancing the internship enrollment between the spring and fall semesters. The membership in the LinkedIn – Texas A&M Construction Science Group is 2,645. The winning team and best presenters from the semester’s ethics team competition were announced.

Joe Horlen gave an update on the department with the changes in faculty through retirements and new hires, the fall 2016 student enrollment numbers, and the demographic and academic information for freshmen, change of major and transfer students. Applications from all three sources are very high and admissions are more competitive than ever. The department is on track to graduate 300 students each year with 267 projected for 2016. The Francis Hall project continues to earn awards for excellence. It was announced that three endowed matching scholarships for CIAC members remain available for 2016. The members were informed of the minor degrees available to COSC students with the latest being a Leadership in the Design and Construction Professions. The first class for this new minor was held with Jim Thompson as the guest speaker. There is an opportunity to establish an endowed matching professorship in support of this minor degree. Joe Horlen concluded by providing information on the very successful summer 2016 Construction Management Academies held with the cooperation of the GearUp program and eight of our industry partners. There were 216 high school students in the program. Each student will be tracked to determine the number that apply to and are admitting into Texas A&M. There are plans to conduct a similar program in summer 2017 if funding support is available. The federal grant funds that supported the summer 2016 program are no longer available. The estimated cost for each week long session is \$35,000.

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., three of the committees began their faculty focus group meetings.

Lunch was served at noon, and students that participated in the ethics team competition were introduced.

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The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m. with individual committee reports on their assigned tasks and discussions.

The Budget Committee was chaired by Jeremy Stovall of Brookstone.

- The revenue exceeded the budget by \$44,964.
- The projected expenses were \$78,930 less than budgeted with the primary reason being the availability of differential tuition funds to cover some student enrichment and program support items.
- Three endowed matching scholarships are available
- An expense line item of \$50,000 was added as the first of five set asides for a matching endowed professorship in support of the Leadership Minor.
- The projected retained earnings is \$231,446
- The carryover from the CIAC Support Fund is \$14,566
- The budgeted income from memberships is \$427,000
- The expense line items for student enrichment and program support were retained with slight adjustments based upon the availability of differential tuition funding.
- The 3rd and final set aside of \$20,000 was included for an endowed matching professorship
- An expense of \$50,000 was added as the 2nd set aside for the matching endowed professorship in support of the leadership minor.
- An expense item of \$25,000 was added as a donation towards the Aggie BUILD program.
- Funding support for the summer 2017 Construction Management Academies will be reviewed during the spring 2017 meeting.

The Membership Committee was chaired by Brent Ballard of Marek. The comments on the internship program were that it was relevant and current with strong support by the industry members. Approximately half of those present had hired an intern in the past. The specific best practices that were identified included the following:

- Interns like to be treated as regular employees and not labeled as an intern.
- A structured program with internship supervision ensures company employees are accountable for the engagement of the interns so that the interns are not lost or underutilized.
- Companies need to communicate regularly with their interns to let the interns know where they stand in their job performance in meeting expectations.
- It is productive to bring a company's interns together during the internship and provide an opportunity to discuss common and unique experiences.
- Allow the interns to be representatives of the company at professional, trade meetings and career fairs.

The committee hosted the faculty focus meeting with Professors Fickel, Boldt and Jordan. There was agreement that the department has a "flagship" program among its Tier I construction education peers. The addition of non-tenured faculty from industry has allowed for more dedicated resources for classroom instruction thus freeing up time for tenure-track faculty to pursue their research areas. The new faculty

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who each are graduates of the program have seen a more selective process in the admission of new students and a different demographic mix with more students from non-construction families.

The Development Committee was chaired by Matt Summerville with The Brandt Companies. The committee reviewed the endowed matching scholarship program and received an update on the number and value of scholarships. At the current investment of \$100,000 annually, the value of scholarships is increasing at a \$250,000 rate. The committee discussed whether a \$1,000 scholarship is still relevant, but concluded that the amount is sufficient at this time for motivating students to stay with the program. Once those who are seeking to establish a new endowed scholarship have been answered, those members with existing scholarships can be considered for additional scholarship matches. No changes in the scholarship program are recommended at this time. In their review of the program's efforts on the university capital campaign, more emphasis on planned giving is needed. Contributions to the campaign can be directed to a maintenance fund for Francis Hall. In their discussions on the support for summer 2017 Construction Management Academies, the committee recommended a wait and see approach in regards to funding. Considering the expense of each five day session, an option to consider is a two to three day session. Funding support from trade associations should be considered.

The committee hosted the faculty focus meeting with Professor Marraro and Ashburn. The new faculty expressed humility in being part of the faculty, and were impressed by the high caliber of the students and facilities. They felt the department had a vision and provided good leadership. Smaller class sizes provided for a more intimate opportunity to interact with and come to know the students. The requirement for auditoriums for larger classes makes any hands-on instruction difficult. An area needing attention would be in the level and source of audiovisual and information technology support since there are both university and college resources depending upon the location of the classroom.

The Graduate Program and Research Committee was chaired by Leland Rocchio with Jordan Foster Construction. The Membership Committee joined in this session as they had no business to discuss at this meeting. The committee received an update of the research grant provided to Professor Choi. Professor Choi's work on his research has helped seed his search for larger sources of research funding. The committee was also briefed on the May's Business School Center for Executive Development.

The committee hosted a faculty focus group for Professors Du and Dixit and Bigelow. The areas of research were explained to the members and input was sought on the research areas of most interest to the industry. Thoughts were exchanged on how the faculty could best acquire and integrate input from the CIAC into their teaching. There is a need to address research that can advance the fundamental knowledge and meet the industry's need for applied research. There is still support for more applied use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) as an operational tool. There is a need for more applications that address the buyout and bid day events. The topics addressed dealt mostly with teaching, and it was noted that future focus group meetings should focus more on research.

Dave Fleming closed the meeting by thanking all those who attended and participated in the committee meetings. Updates on the progress of the department head search will be provided as they become available. Participation in the process once campus visits are scheduled was encouraged.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.