

CIAC BOARD MEETING – FALL 2017
COLLEGE STATION HILTON
October 27, 2017

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 recognized the special guests who were visiting College Station as nominees for the “Aggie 100” award for 2017. There were 20 former students from the College of Architecture leading “Aggie 100” firms, with 13 being COSC graduates.

He introduced Dean Jorge Vanegas who extended his greetings and appreciation for the outstanding support that the CIAC provides to the Construction Science Department. He noted the increased level of collaboration, as well as the high standards the CIAC sets as a model industry advisory board. He expressed his pride in the positive comments from the visiting accreditation team from the ACCE that just completed the reaccreditation review of the COSC program. He highlighted recent changes in the university leadership with a new provost, and stated that the university will continue to develop programs for transformational learning with a commitment to research. He acknowledged the department’s success in attracting a stellar cast of research faculty members. He encouraged the industry to assume a major role in the recovery efforts for the recent hurricane. He welcomed the advice of the CIAC to help with ideas based upon its wealth of talent, and to provide a sense of direction for a continued legacy of excellence.

Dave Fleming discussed the goals contained in the “CIAC Commits into the Future: The 12th Man of COSC”. A copy of the goals was provided in the meeting folders. He stated that feedback on the document is welcome and should be sent to Pat Suermann.

The proposed slate of officers for 2018-2019 Executive Committee were presented, along with their assignments to specific committee chairs. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the proposed slate of officers.

Pat Suermann addressed the meeting expressing his goals as Department Head to honor the past and build on the future. He plans to visit other peer programs of construction education to gain broader perspective of how other programs pursue excellence. The recent reaccreditation visit from an ACCE team was positive, with six noted strengths, and three areas needing slight refinements. He listed his first impressions on assuming his role as Department Head, and his visits with each member of the faculty and staff, as well as sitting in on every class to observe the manner of instruction. The department has a

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strong faculty that is current on their presentation of industry topics. The best classes are taught to students who felt like colleagues in a successful firm. The start of the semester was challenged by the delay due to Hurricane Harvey. He asked for the industry's input for providing transformational learning to place the best prepared graduates into the industry. He wants to establish an increased level of strategic communications via social media. The department is moving in the right direction from the leadership of Joe Horlen. The future will require increased discovery and innovation. Pursuing research and producing quality graduates can be achieved and are not in competition with each other. He announced that the construction cost for Francis Hall has been paid off as of September 2017, and an endowed account has been established for future maintenance needs. He announced a search for non-tenure track faculty was underway, and asked for the industry's help to encourage construction professionals within their industry networks to consider applying for a faculty position. He concluded his remarks by mentioning the department's efforts to develop a "challenge coin" for both the department and the CIAC. A challenge coin is a uniquely designed round metal object that is given to another person as a token of one's appreciation for a great service. Once available, CIAC challenge coins will be provided to the CIAC membership likely up to, but no later than April 2018.

Professor Amir Behzadan, Associate Professor and Director of Research, updated the members on the new research faculty and their primary areas of research. He expressed his appreciation for CIAC member support of the department's research efforts by partnering to provide access to data with assurances that such data collection would be with the highest regards for safety and the privacy of the information. The department will be targeting more federal research funds from specific agencies as the department seeks to create a brand with six major research clusters. The research faculty will be reaching out to the CIAC to learn of specific industry research needs.

Matthew Doherty, Operations Team Leader, with the Aggie BUILD updated the members on the organizations efforts, and presented their plans for continued development of mobile medical clinics using standard shipping containers. The organization is beginning to develop alternative designs for mobile units in support of veterinary and dental services. The organization sent its prototype medical clinic to South Texas in response to Hurricane Harvey where it served as a vaccination facility. He concluded his remarks by requesting continued funding support from the CIAC.

George Eustace wrapped up the morning session with an update on the three primary responsibilities of the Industry Relations Office. The CIAC membership grew from 188 to 197 companies in 2017 with

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greater diversity in the industry sectors. The interest in CIAC membership is being driven by a company's desire to recruit and hire COSC graduates. Despite the growth in CIAC membership and COSC student enrollment, the ratio of companies to students is at a consistent ratio of approximately one company to five or six students. This ratio is expected to change slightly as the COSC enrollment remains near the current 1100 level and the number of companies increases to over 200. Job placement is strong at 90% with average starting salaries of \$61,000, and a shift towards the Dallas\Fort Worth region. CIAC members are hiring 90% of all graduates as well as interns each semester. Changes in the accounting process for the internship management fee were explained to ensure invoices are properly addressed to the company's accounts payable office. The Industry Relations Office is improving invoicing for renewal of CIAC membership for 2018. Members were encouraged to pay their membership fee by credit card if possible in order to reduce the requirement to hand process the large volume of checks that arrive at the start of the year. Concerns over the growth of the career fairs and the available space at the Brazos County Expo Complex were explained, and the membership was asked for their ideas for addressing the growth and available space. The current configuration of booth spaces allows for approximately 180 booths while still providing a dining area for a buffet meal. The participation at the fall career fair was 165 of the 197 companies, a new level of participation. The following options were presented for comment and discussion by the membership committee:

Options for Timely Registration

- Plan for the 180 maximum with any excess moving to a later career fair or a company day.
- Establish a target to register 45 days prior to the career fair with an incentive for early registration.
- Add a "Regrets" option on the career fair registration form to account for members who do not plan to attend the career fair.

Options for Increasing Capacity to 200 Booths

- Use the dining space for more booths and implement an alternative lunch meal
- Rent a large lunch meal tent and continue a catered buffet style meal given the cost and weather considerations
- Keep dining area and limit booth capacity to 180.

Members were encouraged to request membership in the Texas A&M – Construction Science Group on LinkedIn that is currently at 2,820 members.

Following a break, the meeting resumed with meetings of the various CIAC committees. Each committee presented a report prior to the lunch break.

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The Curriculum Committee reported on their review and discussion of the initial findings of the recent ACCE reaccreditation visit. An extensive amount of data (over 7,000 pages) was contained in a self-study that documented the department's achievement of the 20 ACCE required student learning outcomes (SLOs). The findings clearly showed the CIAC's active involvement in the development and refinement of the curriculum over the years. The curriculum committee identified four areas for further curriculum development and refinement: construction technology, a field lab at the new RELLIS campus, surveying, and soils. Pat Suermann thanked the committee for its work and stated that 2018 would be the "year of curriculum".

The Development Committee reviewed the CIAC Endowed Matching Scholarship Program and concurred with Goal 2: Endow the "CIAC Commits into the Future: The 12th Man of COSC" to fund 12 matching endowed scholarships with the first 10 being made available to CIAC member companies, and the last 2 available to individual lifetime members. There was one remaining endowed matching scholarship available for 2017 of the ten that were budgeted.

The Membership Committee recommended that no limit be placed upon the future growth of CIAC membership. Suggested adjustments for accommodating an increased CIAC member participation in the career fairs with the available space were to change the manner of providing the lunch meal to include use of food trucks. An alternative of going to a two-day event should be considered to reduce the number of booths and the noise level. Other venues such as Reed Arena can also be considered. Arrangements for additional parking or else a bus service should be reviewed since parking space was near capacity at the fall career fair.

The Graduate Program and Research Committee reported an increased level of participation by members at the meeting. The committee will be developing a more formal process for submission, review and approval of research grant proposals. A recommendation was made to award the 2017 research funds to Professor Phil Lewis for a proposal to work with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study the environmental impact of construction equipment. Dave Fleming offered Sundt's projects as a data set for the research as there will be a need for the collection of field data. The committee also brainstormed the idea of creating a task force to develop research areas of most interest to the industry, and creation of a consortium of companies to fund such research.

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The Budget Committee reported on the 2017 Budget Update, and the 2018 Proposed Budget. The 2017 budgeted income of \$663,157 was exceeded by \$47,340 for a total of \$710,497 with increases in both corporate and individual memberships. All future membership fee income for 2017 will be credited to the 2018 budget. The projected expenses of \$449,724 were consistent with the budgeted amount of \$449,350 yielding a projected balance of \$260,773. A motion was made, seconded and approved to increase the 2017 budgeted amount of \$100,000 for the CIAC Endowment – CIAC Support Fund to \$150,000. A fund transfer request will be made for this approved amount. A motion was made, seconded and approved to add an expense line item to the 2017 budget for Aggie BUILD in the amount of \$25,000. The proposed 2018 budget was presented with an income of \$681,667 and expenses of \$524,660. A noted increase from 2017 was for the graduation event which requires rental of an offsite meeting space to accommodate the larger number of graduates and their guests at the traditional “Hard Hat Ceremony” each semester. A recommendation was also made to allow the department flexibility in the use of the budgeted amount for individual scholarships since most incoming freshman scholarships are funded from differential tuition. The budget expense for the CIAC Endowment – CIAC Support Fund will be consistent with the increased funding in the 2017 budget. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2018 Proposed Budget.

Dave Fleming adjourned the meeting by expressing his appreciation for all the support and work that the CIAC has provided during his tenure as CIAC President for 2016-2017. He wished Jeremy Stovall continued success as he assumes leadership of the CIAC for 2018-2019. Dave Fleming will be formally recognized the April banquet in keeping with the transition for past CIAC presidents.