

PEER Student Leadership Council Summer Retreat Minutes
August 12, 2006
Sunriver Resort, Oregon

Members in attendance:

Wassim Ghannoum (UCB), Ben Langhorst (UCI), Christine Goulet (UCLA), Annie Kwok (UCLA), Philip Chow, Eric Nguyen (UCB), Melissa Pi (UCD), Jose Uglade (UCD), Griffin Thornock (Stanford), HyungSuk Shin (UW), Amado Lizarraga (UCB)

Members who joined by teleconference call:

Judith Mitrani-Reiser (Caltech)

Minutes prepared by HyungSuk Shin, Judy Mitrani and Wassim Ghannoum.

Meeting in session at 8:00 am.

1. Introductions

- Welcome by Judy
- Introductions of SLC members

2. Future of SLC (by Prof. Scott Ashford)

Scott Ashford gave some remarks in the first part of the meeting:

- PEER Year 10 (last year) starts October 1.
 - This year is the graduation year of PEER, so education programs will likely stop.
 - Has been looking for homes for our most successful programs (REU, Scholars Course, and Seismic Design Competition).
 - This year will be the same as the past year for the SLC, but he's not sure what will happen after Year 10.
 - He plans to submit an education proposal to NSF to continue the intern program; will likely merge the Scholars Course with the internship program; may need help from graduate students to help run the combined program.
 - This year elevated the visibility of the Seismic Design Competition. He's not sure what will happen to the competition after PEER graduates. Scott wrote a letter to EERI so that they can take ownership of the competition.
 - Perhaps EERI student chapter could help in the seismic competition this year and in the future
 - He believes that there will be some financial support available for education programs in PEER after Year 10, but he's not sure how much will be available.

- Thinks that EERI can help open up the competition to all undergraduates; should put the burden on the teams to raise money and support themselves (especially for travel expenses).
- The SLC should discuss what programs should continue after Year 10 and how we can make it happen.
- Some companies may want to sponsor the seismic competition this year; may want to create a new officer position to interact with these companies or add responsibility to the Seismic Design Competition Chairs.
- NEES is not interested in hosting the seismic competition; more interested in telecommunicating competition.
- EERI also gets NSF funding – there is a possibility to write a grant proposal to NSF through EERI for the seismic competition; they have an education committee that has been pretty inactive and their student chapters have dwindled; we should work with EERI's education committee framework (contact person is Ellen Rathje at UT Austin).
- EERI has special endowment funds that may be tapped into.
- This year's EERI meeting to be held in LA around February. John Wallace on the organizing committee

3. Role of the SLC (Judy)

- Voice of Students (SWOT)
- Annual meeting and NSF site visit
- Outreach activities

4. Membership (Judy)

- Any PEER-funded student
- Any student from a PEER university

The members in attendance discussed their graduation plans:

- Wassim, Ben, Christine, Phillip, Melissa, Jose, and Hyung-Suk will be around one more year.
- Judy, Annie, and Eric plan to graduate in December.
- Griffin already graduated. Tyler graduated(?)
- Amado, Vivian and Alejandro will start graduate school at Stanford in the Fall.

5. PEER Universities (Judy)

- Caltech, Stanford, UCB, USC, UCD, UCI, UCLA, UCSD, UW

6. Form of Communication within SLC (Judy)

- Email, phone
- Teleconference (once a quarter and whenever needed)
- In-person meeting (PEER annual meeting, NSF site visit, annual summer retreat)

7. Year in Review (Judy presentation)

- See ppt presentation slides

8. SWOT Survey List Discussion

- Added 1 question in Industrial Interaction section:
 - I would like to collaborate more with industry
- Added 2 questions in Communications section:
 - PEER facilitates my interactions with fellow students from other institutions
 - PEER facilitates my interactions with faculty of other institutions

9. BIP

- Successful!
- Easy to get it organized and make it happen
- Presenters are enthusiastic and flexible
- Important things:
 - Increased attendance could be achieved by including BIP seminars in seminar classes
 - so much interest from industry
- Great to improve the industry contact complaints seen in SWOT survey. Should try to increase number of seminar this year

10. By Laws

- No changes

11. Seismic Competition Discussion

- Will continue competition this year almost identical to previous year. No rule changes, some minor clarifications and a change in fragility curve values. Jose, Melissa and Erik have recommendations for the changes.
- New computer and hardware at Davis does not run well. Must be fixed by Quansar
- Venue to be the annual EERI meeting which will be held in February 2007 in Los Angeles. This makes the time frame a bit tighter than usual. Seismic competition chairs to communicate with EERI for that.
- Two major funding issues: money for teams (each team must raise its own) and money for the space at the EERI conference (hopefully EERI will pick that up)
- To aid in the transition of this event to EERI, this year's competition will be opened to all undergraduate universities globally. Advertising to happen at the tri-center field mission in New-Zealand.
- Debate about how to ask PEER teams to obtain funding. Two ideas: same as last year (i.e. direct funding from PEER) or have them apply to PEER for funding (this would aid in the transition to the next year if the teams are accustomed to look for their own funding). All other teams must get their own funding.
- Idea about introduction of an application process for teams with application fee (~50\$) to cover cost of base plate production and shipping. Jose and Melissa recommend that the base plate be produced uniformly and shipped to teams for ease of setup at the competition.
- Advertisement needs to be started at the beginning of October.
- For this rules, dates and format of competition must be finalized by then
- Continuity of Seismic Competition

- Transition of competition to EERI Student Chapter
- Mellisa and Jose will keep helping seismic competition
- Guide and help participant teams to get funding support from department and industry
- Competition Technical Support: a new member from UCD for Jose's position
- Competition Site Organization: Christine
- Competition Participants Support: Ben – answering emails for funding, etc.
- EERI Annual Meeting in UCLA: Christine may cooperate and transit the competition know-how from UCD.

12. New SLC Member and Change in School

- Azadeh Bozorgnadeh (UCSD)

13. Elections

- President: Wassim Ghannoum
- Vice President: Eric Nguyen
- Secretary: Philip Chow
- Internet Chair: Christine Goulet
- SWOT Chair: Xin Xu (?)
- Historian: On Lei Annie Kwok
- Summer Retreat Chair: Amado Lizarraga
- Seismic Design Chairs: Christine Goulet, Ben Langhorst, One more person needed from UCD for Jose's technical position
- Outreach Chair: Ben Langhorst
- Industry Liaison: Eric Nguyen

14. Future of SLC

- All SLC members decide to continue SLC as much as possible.
- Annual meeting of SLC members essential in creating a properly functioning entity.
- Seismic competition a great success. Need to transition it into EERI
- Need to recruit actively to keep SLC numbers up since we are losing several members this year

15. Member list as of meeting

- Caltech: Xin Xu
- Stanford: Won Lee(?), Vivian Gonzales, Amado Lizarraga, Alejandro Pena (?)
- UCB: Wassim Ghannoum, Eric Nguyen
- UC Davis: Melissa Pi, Jose Ugalde
- UC Irvine: Ben Langhorst
- UCSD: Philip Chow, Azadeh Bozorgnadeh (?)
- UCLA: On Lei Annie Kwok, Christine Goulet
- USC: Dongyu Zhang (?)
- UW: Hyung-Suk Shin