

**American Society of Civil Engineers  
Structural Engineering Institute  
Technical Committee on Optimal Structural Design**

**Un-Approved Meeting Minutes  
2006 ASCE-SEI Structures Congress  
Adams Mark Hotel – St. Louis, MO**

**Saturday, May 20, 2006**

**Members in Attendance**

Shahram Pezeshk (Chair)	University of Memphis	<a href="mailto:spezesk@memphis.edu">spezesk@memphis.edu</a>
Chris Foley (Secretary)	Marquette University	<a href="mailto:chris.foley@marquette.edu">chris.foley@marquette.edu</a>
Keith Mueller	Teng and Associates	<a href="mailto:muellerkm@teng.com">muellerkm@teng.com</a>
Dan Frangopol	University of Colorado	<a href="mailto:dan.frangopol@colorado.edu">dan.frangopol@colorado.edu</a>
Asghar Bhatti	University of Iowa	<a href="mailto:mabhatti@uiowa.edu">mabhatti@uiowa.edu</a>
Colby C. Swan (AE)	University of Iowa	<a href="mailto:colby-swan@uiowa.edu">colby-swan@uiowa.edu</a>
Anne Raich	Lafayette College	<a href="mailto:raicha@lafayette.edu">raicha@lafayette.edu</a>

**Visitors (and Friends)**

Don Grierson (friend)	Chair: TAC-Analysis and Computation	<a href="mailto:grierson@uwaterloo.edu">grierson@uwaterloo.edu</a>
Jamie Guest	Johns Hopkins University	<a href="mailto:jkguest@jhu.edu">jkguest@jhu.edu</a>
Masoud Sanayei	Tufts University	<a href="mailto:masoud.sanayei@tufts.edu">masoud.sanayei@tufts.edu</a>
Dan Frangopol	Lehigh University	<a href="mailto:dan.frangopol@lehigh.edu">dan.frangopol@lehigh.edu</a>

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by the Chair (Prof. Pezeshk).

1. Members and guests provided a short introduction to the Committee
2. The minutes of the meeting in New York, NY at the 2005 Congress were approved without changes or amendments.
3. Business arising from the minutes

There was no new business resulting from the previous minutes.

4. Review and update of committee membership roster/duties

Friends of the committee and potential new members were instructed to use ASCE's website to apply for committee membership.

The terms of committee membership were reviewed by the Chair.

A recommendation of Chris Foley (Marquette University) taking over as chair of the committee was discussed. Chair Pezeshk relayed to other members of the committee that if they are interested in performing the duties of Secretary, that they should email Professor Pezeshk informing him of their interest in taking the position. Professor Pezeshk also discussed the role of control members and requested that members interested in becoming a control member of the committee contact him to formally express their interest.

5. Associate Editors Report

Prof. Swan reviewed discussions that occurred at the Associate Editor's meeting. The present impact factor for the Journal is 0.77. The acceptance rate of manuscripts is approximately 31%. The current mean time from review to final publication is approximately 21 months. It was reported that the impact factor of the Journal is improved when manuscripts cite works that are in the Journal and are recent (*e.g.* two years old). The time from acceptance to publication was approximately 7 months. The committee discussed methods that may be used to improve time to publication.

Prof. Swan received 7 manuscripts since he took over as AE. Three papers have been processed (2 accepted and 1 declined) and four are under review.

Prof. Foley resigned from his 1-year extension as Associate Editor early in 2005 and Professor Swan graciously agreed to take over the AE duties. Prof. Foley initially was handling 9 manuscripts during the period beginning May 2005. Four (4) of these manuscripts were new submissions and five (5) were revised manuscript submissions. One of the revised manuscripts was accepted for publication and the remaining 4 are pending. The new submissions are under review as well. Prof. Foley's manuscripts have been taken over by the editorial board of the journal and Prof. Swan has been receiving submissions since early this year.

It was suggested that reviewers that perform very well during the year should be considered for "Awards of Appreciation" issued by ASCE. It was suggested that the AE pass along names of reviewers to the OSD Chair for award consideration.

6. Report on sessions being sponsored at the 2006 Structures Congress in St. Louis.

Two sessions were proposed:

*"Structural Optimization Using MS Excel for Practicing Engineers* by Keith Mueller.

Approximately 40 people attended the session and it was well received.

*"Life-Cycle Design and Management of Infrastructure* by A. Estes. Approximately 12-15 people attended the session.

The committee discussed the idea that papers recommended for potential inclusion in the special issue of the Journal from the A&C track at the Congress should be withdrawn if the authors did not attend the conference and present their paper.

7. Sessions Proposed at the 2007 Structures Congress at Long Beach

An email from John Wallace of UCLA was distributed to the committee and discussed. Don Grierson mentioned that the "Research Frontiers Track" at the 2007 Congress was intended to be "research-focused" papers. Papers in this track will be peer-reviewed and there will be a full-paper submission associated with the presentations.

The themes for the 2007 Congress were discussed by the committee.

It was mentioned that a significant percentage of papers were to be devoted to "practical" engineering subjects. Papers outside the "Research Frontiers Track", at this point, appear to be "invited abstracts" without full-papers.

Concerns arose from the 2006 Congress that some papers in sessions were not presented at the Congress. Masoud Sanayei relayed procedures he successfully employed for contacting authors/presenters prior the Congress to ensure that an individual will attend the Congress and present their paper. Keith Mueller used a similar process to that used by Masoud Sanayei at the 2006 Congress. PPT presentations of reviewers were obtained ahead of time by Keith Mueller.

Session proposals for the 2007 Congress were discussed by the Committee. Deadlines for session and abstract submissions to the ASCE web-site are June 15, 2006. Abstract proposals should have a description of the session and should identify at least 4 papers for presentation. Session decisions will be made by August 1, 2006.

Deadlines for the “Research Frontiers Track” were discussed. The attached email from John Wallace issued to ASCE committee chairs was discussed by the committee.

If sessions or abstracts are proposed by committee members, they are urged to send the Chair advanced copies of their proposals prior to uploading to the ASCE web-site. This will help ensure that the Chair’s tracking sheets are complete and accurate.

8. Future Directions of the Optimal Structural Design Committee

The committee discussed the manuscripts that were to be included in a special issue of the Journal or a special publication that have been received to date. The “Performance-Based Optimization” monograph or special issue put together by the Committee was discussed. The form of this contribution to the literature was discussed (*e.g.* special issue of the Journal, an ASCE Manual of Practice, or an ASCE Monograph). The chapter submissions that have been received by the Committee to date were distributed to the Committee for review.

The committee members present at the meeting felt that a special issue of the Journal may be the best route to take with the manuscripts. In this vein, the committee discussed organizing tracks at the 2007 Congress around the manuscripts received whereupon they then could be organized into a special issue of the Journal. The final decision in this regard will be made by Editors Pezeshk and Foley.

The committee felt that an internal review process was sufficient for the special issue or monograph. The following committee members volunteered to review manuscripts currently in hand.

Don Grierson	8
Colby Swan	6, 12
Chris Foley	2, 3
Keith Mueller	10
Asghar Bhatti	1, 6
Shahram Pezeshk	5
Anne Raich	9
Jaime Guest	7, 12

Shahram Pezeshk will distribute manuscripts to the committee via a password-protected web-site. The attached list of the most up-to-date manuscript titles will be distributed to the Committee for review and volunteers to review manuscripts were requested.

The tutorial session proposal was discussed.

The CIS2 intermediate file format was briefly discussed. Shahram Pezeshk and Chris Foley relayed their experiences related to using commercial software for optimization. Their investigations have determined that CIS2 and associated commercial software is not amenable to optimization research activities at the present time.

The committee discussed development of a short-course on optimization. Asghar Bhatti relayed his interest in developing a short-course in this area to the committee and will take the lead in its development.

The Special Projects funding program was discussed by the committee. The committee discussed requesting funds to put together the special issue or short course.

9. Other Business

An idea to have the 18<sup>th</sup> Analysis and Computation Congress in Vancouver devoted to practice-oriented sessions was discussed. Direct invitation of practitioners to submit papers for consideration at the 18th A&C Congress was discussed.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm and the Committee assembled for a St. Louis dinner.

Respectively Submitted,



Christopher M. Foley, Ph.D., P.E.  
Secretary – Technical Committee on Optimal Structural Design  
June 2, 2006

Encl.