

Dear GCEC Members:

On November 28, 2005, our delegation visited the Office of International Science & Engineering (OISE) of the National Science Foundation and the ASCE Headquarters in Reston, Virginia (the list of members of our delegation is provided below).

At the National Science Foundation, we met with a group of seven Program Directors led by Dr. Cassandra Dudka and Dr. Harald Stolberg. We have jointly presented an overview of our Center and its activities and had a productive discussion. The major points are provided below:

- Our presentation was met with a lot of interest and the general response was positive and encouraging.
- The NSF does not endorse any international activities, but provides catalytic support for international research projects, also related to education. In this case, the research component should be focused on building methodologies for global education related to computing and on the verification of effectiveness of such education.
- We all agreed that building synergy and mutual understanding are extremely important in international cooperation. For this result, a direct research involvement of our members in developing countries should be considered as priority, with possible funding coming from the NSF.
- There is a need to expand our activities to South America (Dr. Salazar has already expressed interest in doing that), and there are NSF specific programs, which might be appropriate for us to consider. Specifically, the Pan-American Advanced Studies Program, modeled after NATO Advanced Studies Program, should be our initial focus.
- There was interesting discussion about the format and language of our teaching modules and our concept of a modular educational
- The US Federal Government funds the NSF. Therefore, all research projects related to education should clearly explain benefits for American students in the context of learning the global dimension of engineering and education.
- Our projects should incorporate collaboration with social scientists addressing the issue of behavioral aspects of education and learning.
- All research proposals must be submitted through the US Ph.D. granting institutions.

At the ASCE Headquarters we separately met with the following key ASCE officers, including:

Pat Natale, Executive Director

Mike Goode, Vice President, CERF

John Casazza, Director, Continuing Education

Walter Marlowe, Director, Professional Services (Certificates)

Johanna Reinhard, Director, Journals

Marissa Sherard, Director, International Programs

John Segna, Program Coordinator

I am happy to report that all meetings went exceptionally well. They were focused on making our activities more effective for us and all issues related to our educational activities were discussed, including our short course to be offered in the United Kingdom, our teaching modules to be developed, and webinars.

MEMBERS OF OUR DELEGATION:

Tomasz Arciszewski (Chair, Executive Committee)
Professor and Chair
Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering Department
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

John Miles (Co-Chair, Working Group for Education)
Professor, Head of Institute of Machines and Structures
Cardiff School of Engineering
Cardiff University, UK

W. M. Kim Roddis (member, ExCom, ASCE)
Professor and Chair
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Hani G. Melhem (Vice-Chair, International Organizations)
Martin K. Eby Professor of Structural Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering
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R. Raymond Issa (member, Executive Committee)
Director of Graduate and Distance Education Programs, Professor
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Guillermo Salazar (Education Committee Chair, ASCE)
Assistant Professor
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Worcester Institute of Technology, Worcester, MA

Regards

Tomasz Arciszewski and Rafal Kicingier