



Opening Remarks:

The Meeting started promptly at 8:30 am with Construction Industry Advisory Council (CIAC) President Brent Ballard (Marek Brothers) opening the meeting by welcoming, and thanking the 110 attending CIAC members. Mr. Ballard then asked the attendees to show their hands if they were new to the CIAC or if this was their first time attending the CIAC Board meeting. There were around 25 new attendees out of the 110 present. Mr. Ballard thanked them for coming and then asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Ballard then gave an overview of the meeting format and encouraged members to use the committees as an opportunity to increase their involvement. Mr. Ballard then introduced Dr. Patrick Suermann, Interim Dean of the School of Architecture.

Dr. Suermann started his presentation by reminding everyone in attendance that it was Muster Day and then mentioned the importance of Muster Day for our university. Dr. Suermann then gave an update on various School of Architecture (SoA) initiatives. He informed the CIAC that the SoA will not be getting a new building anytime soon but he said he was working on a 50-million-dollar renovation to Langford. He informed the CIAC that the Design departments of the SoA just had their biggest career fairs in history, but like the CIAC career fair had last Fall. Dr. Suermann then told the CIAC that he will not pursue a joint Career Fair for all departments of the SoA anymore. He joked that this had been his most unpopular suggestion since he became Interim Dean.

Dr. Suermann then said that the departments of the SoA needed to work more on applied research; research that benefits directly the industry. Dr. Suermann then provided a few examples of applied research being conducted by the faculty of the Department of Construction Science.

Dr. Suermann then said that another initiative he was working on was on increasing faculty salaries. He requested help from industry and faculty alike in identifying new possible faculty.



Dr. Suermann then spoke about his Dean's advisory board and mentioned by name some CIAC members who are part of his board. He said our leadership is in great demand and requested assistance from our faculty in identifying students who could join his advisory board.

Dr. Suermann then spoke about our efforts at Rellis. He said that thanks to Stephen Mulva our footprint in Rellis may increase to 16-20 acres. He introduced Stephen Mulva at this time and joked about how this UT graduate was helping our SoA so much in such a short time working for our school. He then gave a quick introduction of Meredith Brown, our new SoA Foundation Director. Dr. Suermann then asked Dr. Phil Lewis, Al Pulliam, and Erik Baker to join him in the stage so they could all give a special check presentation.

Mr. Puliam then gave a 5-minute presentation about the Foundation Excellence Awards scholarships. He then presented a symbolic check to Mr. Bob Walsh, who was in attendance representing CIAC member DN Tanks. The check represented how much DN Tanks had contributed to scholarships for our SoA. Mr. Walsh then briefly addressed our CIAC members by saying that even though he is not an Aggie, he always felt welcomed by our team. He thanked everyone for this recognition.

Dr. Lewis then formally presented Meredith Brown. Ms. Brown then addressed our CIAC by introducing herself and expressing her deep desire to help our program.

Dr. Phil Lewis remained on stage and addressed our CIAC members by providing a schedule overview and an update on our department. Dr. Lewis started his presentation by saying no other university has the strength of our CIAC. Dr. Lewis said he was grateful for the money donated by CIAC for many years but even more for the time they give us to make our department stronger. He welcomed the fact we had lots of faculty in attendance as well. Dr. Lewis then used the phrase, "Being at the right place at the right time" to discuss where our department is currently. He provided an update on our number of students. At 1337, we are the largest we have ever been. He then said that President Banks' mandate to grow does not mean to grow sacrificing quality so we will grow smart. Dr. Lewis said being smart is in our DNA, like Joe Horlen said, we are TAMU and you are not. Dr. Lewis then gave an update on the ACCE accreditation for both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He said that the ACCE accreditation of our Master's program is



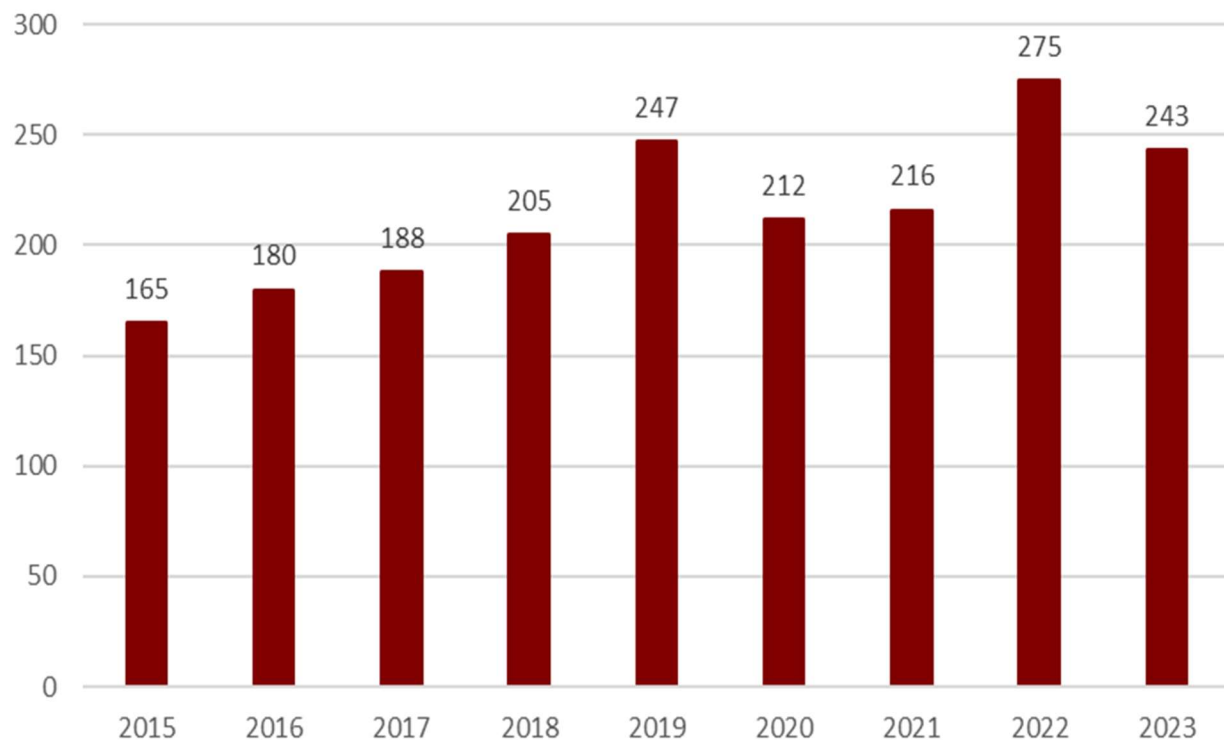
the first one the ACCE has ever done for a graduate program. Dr. Lewis said the ACCE was very impressed with our undergraduate program and although they found no deficiencies, they did find some areas of opportunity in both programs and said we will work on them. He concluded his ACCE report by thanking Robert Hodges and Peter Soltys for their time as industry leaders working on our ACCE accreditation and thanked Shelley Smith and Liz Smith for leading the accreditation from our department side.

Dr. Lewis then introduced Associate Department Head Debra Ellis who gave an update on our undergraduate program. Professor Ellis said we have 8 new APT faculty joining our program in the Fall. She said that although we are in need of faculty, we were also in need of space. Professor Ellis said that the SoA had been offered 5,000 sq ft of space in an existing building on campus, but said we would review before making any decisions. She then informed our CIAC members that the curriculum committee would be asked to review the syllabus of our COSC classes to determine if they are still relevant and ask for improvements. Professor Ellis concluded her presentation by introducing Dr. David Jeong, also Associate Department Head in charge of the graduate program.

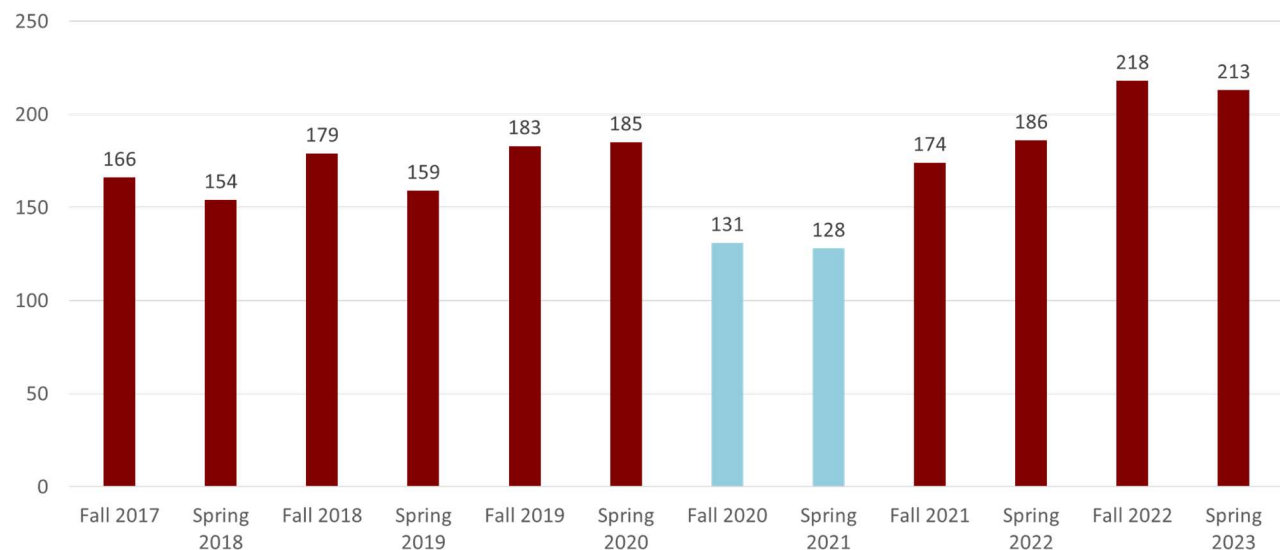
Dr. Jeong provided our CIAC members with an update on our graduate programs. Dr. Jeong said that we are 2nd in the SoA in research expenditure but that we would soon be No. 1 if we continue our momentum. He said that the COSC PhD program is young but our Ph.D. graduates are landing on faculty jobs at major universities, which indicates the high quality of our program. Dr. Jeong informed our CIAC that our faculty are making a significant impact through research. In 2022, our faculty published more than 100 journal and conference papers and some have received national-level research awards and recognitions. Dr. Jeong said that three new tenure track assistant professors will join our program in the Fall.. Dr. Jeong concluded by saying COSC has been designated as one of the prestigious National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) sites for the next three years, which is the first NSF-REU site dedicated to construction. This program will recruit 10 undergraduate students every summer to give a 10-week fully paid experience in research. He then introduced Professor Hernan Guerra, Industry Relations coordinator for the Department of Construction Science.



Professor Guerra gave an update to our CIAC on new membership and CIAC member numbers. So far in 2023 we have 243 CIAC company members. Professor Guerra then said that at this time last year we were sitting on 222. This meant we could potentially finish the year with close to 300 companies.

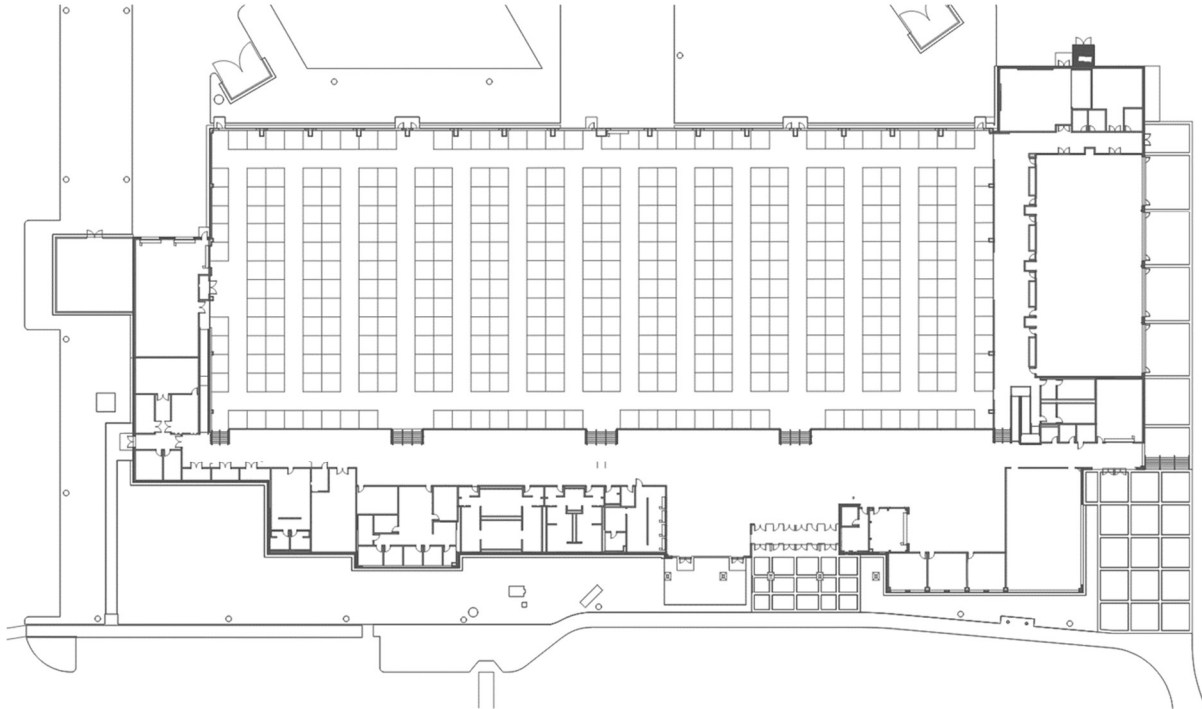


Mr. Guerra said we would change venues for our career fair and social mixers starting this Fall. He informed our CIAC that we had just organized the two largest and most successful career fairs in the history of our program.





He said the Brazos Expo did a great job for our program for many years but that we had outgrown that venue's capacity and change was needed. He said that starting in Fall 2023 our Career Fairs will move to the Legends Sporting Facility in Bryan. He showed a drawing he created to map the new venue's capacity of over 410 10x10 ft booths.

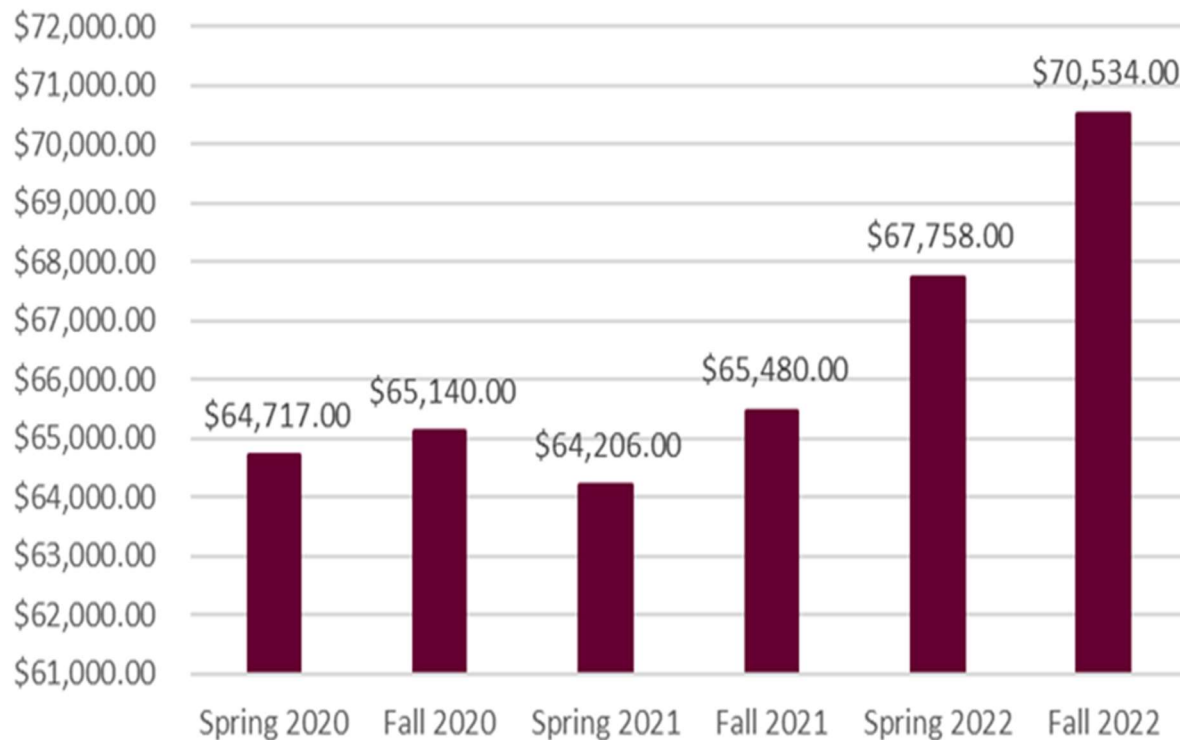


Professor Guerra then gave an update on our internship program and the salaries of our interns. See the table below for the information provided during the meeting:



	Spring 2023	Fall 2022
Number of Students	180	172
Average Salaries	\$19.77/hour	\$18.82/hour
Highest Salary	\$29/hour	\$30/hour
Lowest Salary	\$15/hour	\$15/hour

Professor Guerra then provided the CIAC members with information from our undergraduate exit survey for Fall 2022 graduates. He said that Houston had taken the lead once again for our students. He said 32% of our students who graduated in Fall 2022 had taken jobs in Houston, 26% had taken jobs in Dallas, 16% had taken jobs in Austin, and 14% had taken jobs in San Antonio. Professor Guerra said that 68% of our fall 2022 graduates had taken jobs with commercial construction companies, 14% had taken jobs with residential / multi-family companies, 6% had taken jobs in Heavy Civil companies and 5% had taken jobs with Specialty trade companies. He then said that the average salary for our graduates had increased dramatically from \$67,758 to \$70,534. See the table below for salaries for our students who graduated in the last 6 semesters:



Professor Guerra then gave a 3-year calendar update and said that the career fair and tailgate dates for fall 2023 had changed from previous calendars and that our tailgate would be co-hosting with Auburn's Department of building science. He concluded his presentation by giving an update on our CIAC matching scholarships and asking members to reach out to Meredith Brown if they were interested in providing an endowed scholarship or increasing an existing one.

Professor Guerra then mentioned that we members had a 10-minute break before attending the individual committees and provided room numbers for each committee.

The CIAC committee meetings started at 9:50 am in lieu of 9:45 am as shown in the agenda. The meetings were interrupted by a 15-minute fire alarm at the Memorial Student Center from around 10:20 am to 10:35 am. These meetings concluded at 11 am when students from various graduating classes visited with each of the committees as shown below:

- Freshmen/Sophomore Student Group – Membership Committee
- Junior Student Group – Budget & Development Committee



- Senior Student Group – Curriculum Committee
- Graduate Student Group – Graduate Program Committee

The meeting with the students concluded at noon and then all CIAC members, faculty, and students had lunch at the Gates ballroom.

At 1 pm the committee chairs then presented their reports from their meetings with CIAC members and with their student focus groups.

Budget & Development Committees

Mrs. Lauren Collins, Kiewit and CIAC vice-president, and Budget committee chair, informed the CIAC that there was a good discussion about our department. Mrs. Collins mentioned that the presentation classes and social discourse classes have been very beneficial and the committee saw a lot of potential in their growth. Lauren then said that the committee reviewed the update on the budget briefly and informed the committee on one voting item. Lauren brought up to a vote \$100,000 to be used by the department to increase the existing endowments for scholarships. This would be used as part of the \$300,000 already approved in the Fall of 2022 to be used for 2023. There was a motion for approval and the CIAC approved it unanimously. Mrs. Collins then introduced Mrs. Kendall Pouland.

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Kendall Pouland, Build Better Ways and Curriculum committee chair, informed the CIAC that the committee believed that all changes proposed for the career fair were good. Most of these changes had been suggested by the curriculum committee task force, led by Mrs. Pouland. Mrs. Pouland then informed the attendees that the committee reviewed the ACCE accreditations which just concluded to review the areas of opportunity. She said that they welcomed the idea of new faculty being added. Kendall concluded her committee update by saying that she created a task force to review the syllabus for all undergraduate COSC classes to present their results in the Fall 2023 CIAC meeting.



Mrs. Pouland then said that although she had to step away as part-time faculty member, the committee met with senior students and identified the following as positives in our program:

- Capstone classes
- Challenges by faculty

Mrs. Pouland then said the senior students identified the following as areas of improvement in our program:

- MEP 2 class in person
- Consistency of classes per faculty
- Hands-on experiences
- RFI/Submittal review class (they see a gap in this area)

Membership Committee

Mrs. Kyle Wortham, Southwestern Services, and in the representation of Stefan Gresham, Opifex and Membership committee chair, informed the CIAC that the committee reviewed the current CIAC membership fees. He informed the attendees that the membership fee of \$2,500 has not changed in 25 years. The committee said that they would recommend an increase to be voted in the Fall of 2023 for implementation in 2024. Mr. Wortham said the committee did not want a tier system, at least not in the near future. He said the CIAC membership should be kept simple for now and that a tier system could be reviewed in the future.

Mr. Wortham said the committee then met with freshmen and sophomore students and identified the following as positives in our program:

- Faculty is very helpful and knows students on a first-name basis
- Great classes

- Kyle said the freshmen and sophomore students identified the following as areas of improvement in our program:

- More balance in classes
- More business-type classes
- More real-world experience
- More Etiquette and communication skills classes



Mr. Wortham then introduced Mr. Cory Weiss.

Graduate and Research Committee

Mr. Cory Weiss, Brookstone, and Graduate and Research committee chair, started his report by saying that their meeting began with an update on the 2023 winning research. Mr. Weiss said there was good progress on the exo-skeleton research and that the faculty leaders already had a prototype to be tested. Cory said the researchers needed help with workers willing to test the existing prototype. He said that a survey would be sent to all CIAC members in the next few weeks concerning this research. Mr. Weiss then said that the meeting turned into how to better assist the graduate programs and that the committee wanted better direction in closing the gap between CIAC and the Masters of Science in Construction Management (MSCM) and Ph.D. programs. He said the committee would create a task force and that this new task force would meet with Dr. Jeong quarterly. He said they will start by reviewing the exit survey to see where students need assistance. He said that they also want the research from our program to align with industry needs.

Mr. Weiss then said that the committee met with graduate students and identified the following as positives in our program:

- Great faculty
 - Loved the diversity of industry knowledge
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- Cory said the graduate students identified the following as areas of improvement in our program:
- They are hungry for hands-on experiences
 - They asked the CIAC not to shy away from hiring graduate students for internships or full-time jobs



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Construction Science

Construction Industry Advisory Council

**Spring 2023 Board Meeting Agenda
Texas A&M University, Memorial Student Center
Gates Ballroom, Room 2400
Friday, April 21, 2023**

At 1:45 pm and upon conclusion of the committee chair reports, Brent Ballard asked the CIAC if there was any new business that the CIAC members may want our committees to include for the next meeting. The only new business item was brought up by Clark Baker from Exxon, who mentioned they would like to see more Safety topics in our meetings and in our program.

Brent Ballard then concluded the meeting just before 2 pm.