

2018 ASCE Southeastern Student Conference
Business Meeting Minutes
University of Florida, Reitz Union, Room 2355
Friday, March 2nd, 6 PM

I. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Christine Pu, President of the University of Florida Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. She welcomed everybody to the University of Florida and to the 2018 ASCE Southeastern Student Conference Business Meeting.

II. **Roll Call** – Christine Pu conducted the roll call.

The following schools were present:

University of Alabama

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Auburn University

University of Central Florida

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach

University of Florida

Florida A&M University-Florida State University

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida International University

Georgia Southern University

Kennesaw State University

Lipscomb University

University of Miami

University of North Florida

Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus

University of South Alabama

University of South Florida

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Tennessee Tech

Vanderbilt University

The following schools were absent:

Alabama A&M University

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Savannah State University

Tennessee State University

III. Rules of Order, Quorum, and Approval of 2017 Conference Minutes – Christine Pu asked for an approval of the minutes from last year. The minutes were approved.

IV. Guest Speakers – Lori Troxel, Vanderbilt University, discussed the realignment of the southeast conference and the potential split. Reiterated that it is not up to the National Committee to sort out the potential split for us. Urged the representatives present at the meeting to come up with a solution to the problem instead of pushing off the problem.

V. Identification of the Next Two Conference Hosts, Locations, and Dates – University of Tennessee Knoxville was asked to confirm for the 2019 ASCE Southeastern Student Conference. The University of Tennessee Knoxville confirmed to host. Polytechnic University was asked if they would be able to host the 2020 ASCE Southeastern Student Conference. Polytechnic University said they were unable to host. The University of Central Florida was asked if they would be able to host the 2020 ASCE Southeastern Student Conference. The University of Central Florida accepted to host.

VI. New Business – The discussion was led by Dr. Newman, UF advisor.

Ryan Casburn, UF Grad Advisor, led a discussion about the pros and cons of a split conference. Pros to splitting the conference: There is a risk associated with managing a large number of students, high cost of hosting one large conference, venue availability is hard to find for so many students. Cons to splitting the conference: the split would be arbitrary, the attendance numbers between the proposed two sections are not evenly distributed, and student engagement and appeal may decrease. Things to consider: Need to consider all options to make an informed decision.

Discussion over the potential split of the Southeast Student Conference was opened up to the floor. Andy moderated the time allotted to each school.

1. University of Alabama
 - a. Student Chapter President: Discussed the issue with smaller schools having difficulty with venues and the problems associated with a long travel time. Discussed how splitting the conference into smaller sections would better relations with people in the same region and would form better connections with fewer schools.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Discussed how smaller conferences have a better financial ability and a smaller conference would create a more sustainable host rotation.
2. University of Alabama at Huntsville
 - a. Student Chapter President: Discussed how they are a smaller student chapter and how it's hard to host 900+ people. In agreement with the split. Could possibly host in the future with another school if the conference is split.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Reiterated that they are a small school and there is no guarantee they could host in the future. Believes collaboration with another school the most likely option in order for them to host.
3. Auburn University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are in full support of the split. Could not host in future if conference is not split.
4. University of Central Florida
 - a. Student Chapter Representative: Said they are against the split primarily. They believe the competition drives them to do better. Believe there is no financial benefit to splitting conference.

5. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are a small department and it is not possible for them to host. They do not necessarily want the split. Not for or against the split.
6. University of Florida
 - a. Grad advisor: Personally believes the conference should not be split. Restated that the cost of conference does not necessarily go down if split into two sections. Stated that conference does not have to follow the same format exactly each year- creative ideas for hosting save money.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Stated that he can see both sides. Although UF has previously abstained from the issue, now on the side of not splitting.
7. Florida A&M University-Florida State University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Stated they are against the split. Repeated that Florida Section would have more difficulty putting forth the money to help Florida schools host more frequently. Believe a larger group of students at conference increases networking opportunities. Understand the perspective of smaller schools.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Enjoys the spirit of a larger conference and believes it is more fun with more schools involved.
8. Florida Atlantic University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Repeated that the split would cause each school to host more often. Believes cohosting is the best option for most schools. From their experience hosting the previous year, believe the banquet needs to be changed so it doesn't cost so much.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: reiterated that the banquet was the most expensive part of hosting conference. Believes travel time is a smaller issue.
9. Florida Gulf Coast University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are against the split. Said the travel time is not the most important issue with the potential split. Believes the split will decrease the diversity at conference.
10. Florida Institute of Technology
 - a. Vice President of Internal Affairs: Said they are for the split. Said that the safety and the logistics of driving to conference is a concern of theirs. Stated their concern that conference is getting larger and more expensive each year and with it being so large they can't host.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Reiterated that the safety of their students traveling to conference is their biggest concern.
11. Florida International University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they have a lot of international students and worry with the split there would be a loss of diversity at conference and they would lose interaction with other students. Believes cohosting is a good option. They assisted the University of Miami in the past to host conference.
12. Georgia Southern University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are for the split. They were supposed to have hosted conference this year but had to decline. They would like the opportunity to host in the future. Believes cohosting is a good option.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Said they are a small school and have a hard time hosting such a large conference. Thanked the University of Florida for taking on the role of hosting this year. They would like to host in the future and possibly could if the conference were split.
13. Kennesaw State University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they might be able to host if the conference were split. They would like more of an opportunity to go to nationals.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Said they are in favor of the split. They could possibly host conference if split.
14. Lipscomb University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are for the split. They would like to connect with people at conference and believe the large size of the conference makes it difficult to do so. Believes more of the time spent at conference could be put to use with less schools (less waiting around for every school to do an event). Reiterated that the banquet is difficult with so many people.

15. University of Miami
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are against the split. They believe there is value in meeting everyone from diverse backgrounds. Believe cohosting is a good option.
16. University of North Florida
 - a. Student Chapter Vice President: Said they are unable to host a conference. Said their students enjoy traveling. Believe the split would decrease enthusiasm for conference.
17. Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico
 - a. Faculty Advisor: Said they would like to host a conference and will be ready in the future to host conference. Said they overcome a lot to make it to conference each year and especially this past year.
18. University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they do not necessarily agree with the split. Enjoy sharing time with students of diverse backgrounds.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Said they like the size of the conference. Enjoy that this conference is the largest and most exciting in ASCE. Said they will go with whatever is decided.
19. University of South Alabama
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are for the split. Said that smaller universities would be more likely to host if there were less people. Believes that splitting conference will not necessarily cut ties with people.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Said they are a mid-range school. Said they don't have a similar funding source (Florida Section) that the Florida schools do. Believes a funding source for everyone is a good option.
20. University of South Florida
 - a. No split based on advisor opinion.
21. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they hosted in 2015 and pulled it off as a smaller school. Said they would like to stay together. Believe that the rotation of schools hosting would not be eased by splitting.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Said they are against the split.
22. University of Tennessee at Knoxville
 - a. Student Chapter Conference chair: Said their chapter supported the split mostly. Said that the financial aspects make more sense staying together and the rotation would not be helped by splitting conference.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Reiterated that it is a hypothetical about smaller schools being able to host. They might still not be able to host even if the conference is split. They need confirmation that smaller schools could actually host. Said they would miss the diversity and the conga line at banquet.
23. Tennessee Tech
 - a. Student Chapter Vice President: Said their students miss class from long travel times. Said they don't have the venues to host a large conference. Said the fundraising is not the issue for them, the venues are the main issue. Believe that the rotation would still be an issue with the split. Believe the split would make finding venues easier.
24. Vanderbilt University
 - a. Student Chapter President: Said they are worried that smaller schools might not be able to host even if the conference is split. Believe hard data is needed to make a final decision. Believe a task force is needed to go out and find out if smaller schools can host.
 - b. Faculty Advisor: Restated that a task force is needed. Said they didn't want to lose Puerto Rico.

A vote for potential new steps was put forward. The vote commenced for potential steps.

Motion passed for special task force.

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VII. Announcement for the Good of the Order and Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.