



Central Texas - Balcones

P.O. Box 157, Austin, TX 78767-0157
www.usgbc-centraltexas.org
512-470-9923

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2010-2011 Chapter Board of Directors Application Form John Walewski

Submitted By:

Name: John Walewski, Ph. D.

Title: Assistant Professor

Organization: Construction Engineering and Management Program, Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University

Address: CE/TTI Tower, 3136 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-3136

Membership Category: 12, University and Research Institutions

Telephone: 512-786-9345

Email: jwalewski@civil.tamu.edu

Questionnaire – Please note that answers will appear online as they are answered below:

a. In general, why do you wish to be a member of the Chapter Board?

My professional goals and objectives, and personal beliefs for a sustainable built environment align with the mission and purpose of the Chapter and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). I am committed to public service and believe board membership serves such a role.

b. Please provide a summary of your professional qualifications, knowledge and experience of most relevance to the Chapter. Also indicate the degree to which you have senior management and executive level experience.

I hold a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Construction Engineering and Management Program, Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University. My research agenda is to explore further methods, models, and techniques to identify, assess, and mitigate the risks associated with construction, project management, and infrastructure systems. I also pursue a research agenda regarding economically sustainable strategies for civil infrastructure systems, portfolio approaches to infrastructure development, and procedures to determine optimal project delivery methods for domestic and international projects.

I teach construction-related and civil engineering course. My plan is to develop the curriculum and teach the following courses:

- Sustainable Development Applications to Project Management
- International Project Risks
- Computer-based Project Management Systems and Applications

Previous to my current position I managed a multi-task interagency technical assistance contract the UT Center for Transportation Research (CTR) has with the Austin District of the Texas Department of Transportation. Among other activities, I assisted District staff and UT researchers on developing a programmatic process to for sustainable landscape development, an automated process for design project schedules, an analysis and evaluation of intelligent transportation



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system equipment and systems, and an investigation and modeling of arterial functionality. I supervised the work of approximately 8 faculty members and senior researchers, and approximately 15 graduate students. I also assisted in the teaching of construction, cost estimating, and project scheduling courses for TxDOT employees and UT students.

I have held past research appointments with the Construction Industry Institute and the Center for Construction Industry Studies at UT. Prior to attending UT I served as a staff officer with the Board on Infrastructure and the Constructed Environment of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, and—among other projects—originated and directed the study to review the goals and objectives of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Partnership to Advance Technology in Housing.

I have a doctorate in civil engineering from UT (construction engineering and project management emphasis), a graduate degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan, and a BS in construction management and a bachelor in landscape architecture from Michigan State University.

The emphasis of my research is risk assessment for international capital projects, selection of project delivery methods, pre-project planning, and sustainable infrastructure development. In 2004, I was awarded a Fulbright grant to collaborate with researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology on risk assessment techniques for constructed facilities.

- c. The Chapter is committed to strengthening its membership diversity. What resources could you bring to bear (e.g., demonstrated expertise, leadership positions, and willingness) to help further Chapter participation from high priority sectors including: real estate, energy/utility, finance/insurance, residential, corporate, and product manufacturing? You can also address other sectors you think require greater involvement in the Chapter.**

As a researcher and faculty member, I engage at the leadership level of the planning, design, and construction industries in Texas, the United States, and in some cases, world-wide. Academics associated with the construction industry are few and far between. Of those there is an extremely short-list of persons interested and qualified to teach and research the issues associated with the mission and purpose of USGBC and the Chapter. I am on that short-list and my desire is to make green building and sustainability issues central to my teaching research and service roles of my academic appointment.

I have held past research appointments with the Construction Industry Institute (CII; www.construction-institute.org/) and the Center for Construction Industry Studies (CCIS) at UT. CII is a consortium of more than 100 leading owner, engineering-contractor, and supplier firms from both the public and private sectors that have joined together to enhance the business effectiveness and sustainability of the capital facility life cycle through research and industry alliances. CII and CCIS are among the leading research-related organizations in the construction industry, but both have extremely limited experiences with green and sustainability-related research and policy. I am absolutely convinced that the construction industry—and specifically these two organizations—are at the verge of making significant progress regarding green building and sustainability issues. I am positioned with each of these organizations to facilitate organization-wide as well as company specific interests in Chapter activities.

One of my roles as a faculty member is to diversify the makeup of the degree program that has traditionally lacked female and minority candidates. I believe the same issues and concerns are relevant to the Chapter and require similar attention.



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One of the important functions of Board members is fundraising and other activities to support priority needs of the Chapter. This may take many forms, including: direct sponsorships; helping secure funding or otherwise opening doors from corporate, governmental, and charitable sources; seeking third-party sponsors; recruiting important new members; in-kind support, etc. Please explain your ability and willingness to participate in resource development.

d. Describe what expertise, experience and resources you would bring to any of the following priority activities: advocacy, LEED, education, research, community and organizational excellence

I believe there are a host of organizations in the Central Texas region suitable for sponsorship and funding of Chapter activities, and sources of new members. State-level government organizations, as well as the University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems do a tremendous amount of building and are leading candidates to become significant participants in the Chapters activities. Both UT- Austin and Texas A&M have academic programs that are maturing with regards to green building, LEED, and sustainable development. I believe that each university could play a significant role in advancing the Chapter's funding and sponsorship of activities, and recruitment of new members.

- Advocacy – longtime supporter of environmental issues and the need for non-traditional organizations to “go green”. For example, successful in advocating that the Austin District of TxDOT to seek advice from UT's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to incorporate sustainable landscape design policies and practices for State Highway 45 Southwest.
- LEED – In process of becoming a LEED Accredited Professional.
- Education – Strong advocate that sustainability issues and green building principals and practices become part of the undergraduate and graduate curriculums.
- Research – Strong history of successful research with significant results at the local, state, national and international levels.
- Community – participant and advocate in the Austin neighborhood planning process (Hyde Park North Neighborhood Overlay District) and currently involved with the effort to relocate Sunshine Community Gardens
- Organizational Excellence – Academic training and professional experiences in project management. Numerous examples of successful project delivery ranging from commercial construction, technical assistance to government organizations, and academic research.

e. Describe your experience from other organizations with successful chapter programs.

The American Society of Civil Engineers and the Project Management Institute both have strong Central Texas/Austin Chapters. My observation as members of these organizations is that they succeed because of following basic characteristics:

- Dedicated and hard-working board and committee members
- Professional and personal commitment of membership
- Buy-in that board, committee, and general members can and do make a difference



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f. Leadership positions (volunteer or professional staff) with nonprofit governance.

Current

- Member, TRB Transit Cooperative Research Program Project Panel G-08, A Guidebook for the Evaluation of Project Delivery Methods
- Member, TRB Airport Cooperative Research Program Project Panel 2-04, Primer for Airport Managers on Community Attitudes to Aircraft Noise
- Reviewer, *Journal of Public Works*, 2007-2009
- Reviewer, *ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, 2007-2009

Recent Past

- Officer, American Society of Engineering Education, University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter
- Officer, Graduate Student Organization, Construction Engineering and Project Management Program
- Officer, Graduate Engineering Council, College of Engineering
- Editorial Board, *Planning Forum*, Journal of the College of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin
- Co-Editor, *Michiganscapes*, Journal for the Program in Landscape Architecture, University of Michigan
- Editorial Board, *Dimensions*, Journal of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan

g. Other areas you believe are critical for the Chapter.

- Need for Chapter and USGBC to promote research, policy considerations, and professional practice such as the need for LEED to address life cycle analysis (LCA) considerations. Modifications proposed to LEED--such as LCA, integrated building systems, economic and financial value --should be administered by the LEED National Technical Committee.
- Closer ties with local universities and school districts.
- Closer ties with the Central Texas contractor community such as the Austin Branch of the AGC.
- Commitment to recruit minority and female members and leaders.
- Approach and facilitate a relationship with UT's IC2 Institute and associated Austin Technology Institute.

h. Please identify any affiliations, memberships, and accreditations which may be pertinent for Chapter leadership.

Current

- American Institute of Certified Planners, professional registration (AICP) in process
- Project Management Institute, professional registration (PMP) in process
- Member, TRB Transit Cooperative Research Program Project Panel G-08, A Guidebook for the Evaluation of Project Delivery Methods
- Member, TRB Airport Cooperative Research Program Project Panel 2-04, Primer for Airport Managers on Community Attitudes to Aircraft Noise
- Reviewer, *Journal of Public Works*, 2007
- Member, American Society of Civil Engineers
- Member, American Society of Engineering Educators
- Member, American Planning Association
- Member, Project Management Institute
- Member, Construction Management Association of America



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- i. **Are you a chapter member in good standing and employed in the membership category depicted above? (Candidates must be members prior to November 20, 2007. Joining is easy. See our letter for details.)**

Yes.

- j. **Are you able to attend at least nine of the twelve regularly-schedule Board meetings each year?**

Yes.

- k. **The Board's conflict of interest policy is summarized in the Fact Sheet. As the full statement indicates, conflicts are not inherently improper but Directors must be conscious of such conflicts and act with candor and care in dealing with such situations. Will you abide by the Chapter's conflict policy and can you do so without significantly affecting your Board responsibilities?**

Yes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jon A. W. LaRue".

Signed