

2.11 Annual Report of Virginia Tech Student Chapter

2.11.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives

The CIB student chapter at Virginia Tech was established in 2013. The chapter served as vehicle to facilitate collaboration and fellowship among the students in the different graduate construction programs at Virginia Tech. Members of the student chapter were primarily graduate students who were active and had an interest in research. The graduate construction programs at Virginia Tech are found in two independent organizational units:

- The Vecellio Construction Engineering and Management Program in the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- The Building Construction Department in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction

It is worth noting that an undergraduate program in construction engineering and management also resides in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, and students in civil engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering also are involved in construction-related courses and undergraduate research.

After its founding the chapter was quite active. It established itself as a recognized student group at Virginia Tech (which made it eligible for some funding from the Virginia Tech Office of Student Affairs), elected officers, held frequent meetings and hosted events such as research seminars and social outings.

The chapter responded to calls for the Sebestyén Award in 2013 and 2014. The chapter won the award in 2014, and the report from the project entitled: “Toward Understanding of Information Diffusion about Infrastructure: An Empirical Study of Twitter Data” was published in 2016 as Serial Title #409 with ISBN 978 9063 63 09 42.

The chapter remained active through 2018-19 academic year. However, it entered the 2019-20 academic year without a strong slate of officers. Consequently, its activities were far less. In 2020, the COVID pandemic and subsequent lock-downs caused the chapter to become inactive.

This fall semester leaders in the construction programs at Virginia Tech started discussions about getting the chapter active again.

2.11.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year

The chapter has no completed activities to report in the current year.

Upcoming activities include:

- Identifying candidates for the student leadership positions in the chapter.
- Conducting elections of these candidates in accordance with the chapter’s by-laws.
- Organizing and holding activities for spring semester of 2024.
- Confirming or reinstating the chapter as a recognized student group at Virginia Tech.

2.11.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year

The focus of the chapter in the upcoming year will be to re-establish the chapter as a viable student group among the construction programs at Virginia Tech. The timing of this is very good since there is a renewed commitment to strengthening the collaboration among the graduate construction programs.

Expectations are that by academic year 2024-25 that the chapter will have elected officers and will be as active as it was during the 2014-2019 timeframe.

2.11.4. Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter

Current faculty co-advisors of the chapter are:

- Michael J. Garvin, Professor, Via Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, garvin@vt.edu
- Georg Reichard, Professor, Dept. of Building Construction, reichard@vt.edu