

August 13, 2018

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Dear ASCE Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to share your thoughts and concerns with the changes to the Steel Bridge Competition. We understand and share your disappointment about the change taking place, and we thank you for your patience while ASCE leadership determines a path forward. This letter serves as our next step in providing guidance for ASCE student chapters and AISC bridge teams during the transition and moving forward.

As you are aware, in late July, AISC announced that, effective immediately, AISC would be the sole sponsor of the Student Steel Bridge Competition. In a subsequent letter, ASCE informed its student chapters and faculty advisors of this unexpected development and outlined the differences that led to the change. Last week the ASCE Board Executive Committee approved recommendations from the Committee on Student Members establishing new protocols for the relationship between ASCE student chapters and AISC steel bridge teams.

The following guidance statements refer to fundamental relationship changes. They are followed by specific Questions and Answers to the most common concerns we have heard. Both the relationship guidance and the Q&A are being added to our website.

In addition to providing guidance about the immediate impacts of the dissolution of the AISC-ASCE National Student Steel Bridge partnership, ASCE has established a Student Competition Task Force to develop and implement short- and long-term strategies for including new, innovative, and inclusive competitions in future Student Conferences. We will keep you informed about the recommendations and outcomes of this task force in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you again for your patience as we navigate the transition. While this was not anticipated, and we understand that it will prove challenging, we are looking forward to working with you during the transition. We are true believers in the phrase “when one door closes, another opens” and we are excited to work with you to see what opportunities may develop.

Guidance relating to ASCE Student Conferences:

The AISC Steel Bridge Competition will only be sponsored by AISC and therefore is no longer recognized as an official activity of ASCE Student Conferences. If host schools desire to have an AISC Steel Bridge Competition, hosts should treat this as a separate event from the ASCE Student Conference, which will require separate funding, registration, and liability coverage for the AISC competition.

Guidance relating to ASCE Student Chapters:

AISC bridge teams are no longer official activities of ASCE Student Chapters. Individual students may be members of both the AISC Steel Bridge Competition team and the ASCE Student Chapter, but all recruiting, fundraising and preparations for the Steel Bridge team must be kept entirely separate from ASCE student chapter activities. All civil engineering students are encouraged to maintain their individual membership in their ASCE Student Chapter.

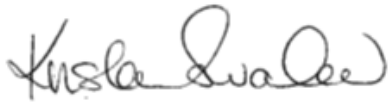
Questions concerning this information may be directed to:

student@asce.org

[Ryan Kobbe](#), Chair, Committee on Student Members

[Leslie Payne](#), Director, Student and Younger Member Programs

Sincerely,



Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
2018 ASCE President



Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AISC Bridge Competitions will no longer be recognized by the Society as official ASCE sponsored activities at Student Conferences

Q: DOES ASCE CARRY LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AISC BRIDGE COMPETITIONS?

ASCE does not carry liability coverage for involvement in organizing, planning, or running non-ASCE sponsored events. Universities that wish to host an AISC bridge competition must ask for a certificate of insurance from AISC. If the Steel Bridge contest will be held at the same time and place as an ASCE Student Conference, the host must provide to ASCE a Certificate of Insurance naming ASCE as an additional insured, and the Host must agree to hold ASCE harmless from any and all liability related to the Steel Bridge contest.

Q: WHAT IS THE CONFERENCE HOST'S RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING AISC BRIDGE COMPETITIONS?

ASCE Student Conference hosts bear no responsibility for AISC Bridge Competitions, judges or awards ceremonies hosted in coordination with Conference locations. Hosts that have reserved venues for steel bridge competition activities, but now choose not to host bridge competitions, should examine their facilities contracts and take appropriate action to avoid any cancellation fees that may be incurred related to steel bridge competitions.

Q: WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON CONFERENCES WHERE HOSTS ELECT NOT TO HOLD A SEPARATE BRIDGE COMPETITION?

2019 Student Conferences will go on as planned without AISC Steel Bridge competitions. Conference activities will include the business meeting, paper presentation contest, as well as Concrete Canoe Competition and any other official activities outlined in the Conference Constitution or chosen by the ASCE Conference Host.

Q: WHICH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ASCE BANQUET AWARDS PRESENTATIONS?

Awards Banquets should include awards given to official ASCE sponsored events.

Q: WHAT IMPACTS DOES THE SPLIT HAVE ON CONFERENCE CONSTITUTIONS?

ASCE Student Conferences should review Conference Constitutions for language stating that the AISC-ASCE Student Steel Bridge Competition is an official activity of the conference and correct all references at the ASCE Student Conference business meeting.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION EQUIPMENT?

All steel bridge competition equipment is the property of ASCE Conferences according to prior Conference member agreements and/or Conference Constitutions, and may be sold, donated, or retained by the Conference at its discretion. Decisions about what to do with equipment should be discussed at the ASCE Student Conference business meeting.

Q: CAN AISC BRIDGE TEAM MEMBERS STILL ATTEND THE ASCE STUDENT CONFERENCE?

AISC bridge team members who maintain their ASCE Student Chapter membership are encouraged to register and attend ASCE Student Conferences for additional opportunities to network with their peers, support other civil engineering students, and participate in competitions and technical activities available through ASCE.

Q: WHERE WILL BRIDGE TEAMS COMPETE IF THERE IS NO STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION AT CONFERENCE?

ASCE student steel bridge teams should contact AISC regarding questions they have about AISC bridge competitions.

AISC Bridge Teams are no longer official activities of ASCE Student Chapters.

Q: AREN'T AISC AND ASCE PART OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION?

AISC and ASCE are different professional organizations, in the same way that SWE, ASME, and APWA are different professional organizations from ASCE. Until recently AISC and ASCE had a joint agreement to collaborate on the National Student Steel Bridge Competition, but because of differences in approach to core requirements, most importantly AISC's desire to prohibit university teams from outside the United States from competing at the national level, the competition will now be conducted exclusively by AISC.

Q: CAN AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAMS REPRESENT A STUDENT CHAPTER?

AISC bridge teams will represent their universities, not ASCE.

Q: HOW DO WE ESTABLISH AN AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAM?

Students interested in participating in AISC competitions should reach out to AISC and their university for further information.

Q: CAN FACULTY ADVISORS CONTINUE TO ADVISE AISC BRIDGE TEAMS?

ASCE Faculty Advisors may advise AISC bridge teams in addition to their ASCE Student Chapters but are not obligated to do so.

Q: WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP OF ASCE AND AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAMS?

ASCE Chapters are no longer the umbrella organizations over AISC teams. ASCE Chapters bear no financial responsibility for AISC teams, including travel expenses to bridge competitions.

Q: CAN OUR ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER RAISE FUNDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AISC STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION?

ASCE funds are intended for use by ASCE student members participating in ASCE-sponsored activities. Fundraising for AISC activity should be conducted separately from ASCE fund raising, and prospective donors should be clearly advised that funds will not be used for ASCE activities.

Q: DO RULES BAR ASCE FROM SPONSORING BRIDGE TEAMS?

AISC bridge teams may request sponsorship from ASCE entities, and ASCE entities are free to support them. ASCE should receive appropriate sponsor recognition, including inclusion of the ASCE logo on team clothing for the competition.

Q: MAY AISC BRIDGE TEAMS HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN ASCE STUDENT CHAPTERS?

Civil engineering students benefit from holding individual membership in ASCE Student Chapters (free membership, free SEI membership, professional activities, networking with local professionals, peer support, community service activities, etc.). ASCE encourages the recruitment of, retention of, and the development of all civil engineering students as members and leaders of ASCE Student Chapters.