

UAA College of Engineering Advisory Board

Friday, September 9th, 2016, 7:30-9:30 am

Location: Engineering & Industry Building, Room 413

Meeting Minutes

I) Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Loren Leman called the meeting to order at 7:30 am, and welcomed all of those present:

Board Members – Melissa Branch, Paul Brooks, Derek Christianson (via phone), Jack Colonell, Pat Coullahan, Bruce Davison, Dan Fawcett, Mark Frischkorn, Virginia Groeschel, Alex Hills, Jenny Jemison, Nicole Knox, John Lau, Loren Leman (Chair), Boyd Morgenthaler, Scott Pessetto, Richard Reich,, Greg Schmidt, George Skladal, Steve Weaver

Absent Board Members - James Hemsath (Excused), Michael Todd (absent), Jon Zufelt (Excused)

Ex-Officio Advisory Board Members – Mark Ayers, EE Chair; Rob Barnett, CSE Chair (via phone); Udayan Dutta, Student Representative; Warren Lucas; Nathan Wardwell.

UAA/CoEng Staff and Faculty Members – Dean Fred Barlow, Kenrick Mock, Tom Ravens, Kim Riggs, Jayna Combs, Ellie Soto.

Loren Leman moved to excuse the two members identified as unavailable. Motion carried, without objection.

II) Board Housekeeping

A. Approval of the Agenda

- Loren Leman made a motion to move Communications Reports to occur under Committee Reports at 9:00 am.

Motion carried, without objection.

B. Approval of the Minutes

- Loren Leman moved the minutes be approved as amended.
- Motion carried, without objection.

III) Special Order of Business

A. Chancellor Tom Case

- Chancellor Case emphasized that our students are critical to the future of Alaska, and the University's progress is a reflection of the state of Alaska as a whole.
- He commended CoEng's collaboration with UAF on Strategic Pathways.
- UAA is reaching out to prospective students via social media and their high schools. He indicated that early engagement with STEM and Engineering is important. He also lauded the success of CoEng's Summer Engineering Academies at UAA and Mat-Su in these efforts.
- Although overall enrollment for UAA is down, enrollment for the CoEng is up, and he credited the talent of our faculty and staff, along with the facilities' upgrades in attracting

new students. He encouraged Board members to tour the newly opened ECB to see for themselves.

B. Provost Samuel Gingerich

- Provost Gingerich focused on Strategic Pathways, applauding how UAA and UAF are continuing to move forward collaboratively based on common strategies developed in that process, serving as a model for all of UA to use in facing continuing fiscal challenges; will continue to seek efficiencies guided by our priorities and the needs of the students we serve.
- He emphasized the importance of maintaining our focus on enrollment.
 - Dean Barlow and the Superintendents of Anchorage, Matsu, and Kenai school districts, have been working together to establish dual credit engineering courses in high schools, to allow students to engage and jumpstart their engineering studies.
 - President Johnson recently held an enrollment summit at UAA, providing an opportunity for all Deans to discuss what they are doing to maximize enrollment.

C. President Johnsen

- President Johnsen continued focusing on the importance of expanding enrollment
 - By 2025, 65% of Alaska's workforce will need post-secondary education, with 25% needing a bachelor's degree or higher. At the moment we are producing 37% of Alaska's workforce.
- He expressed appreciation for the way UAA and UAF have collaborated on Strategic Pathways solutions.
- He appreciates and invites the Board's continuing support in this upcoming legislative session, noting that, last session, UA requested \$377M that included previous year's budget plus fixed cost increases; we received \$325M. He will present next year's budget at November Board of Regents meeting. Alaska OMB is recommending we prepare for another 10% reduction, which we will do so, while advocating for what we need.
- The state is still in a very tight fiscal situation, so we will need to increase what we generate in our own revenue, especially from the research standpoint. There will likely be tuition increases for the next two school years. We are currently 19% under the mean tuition compared to the other 14 western state's tuition. He acknowledged that engineering has already instituted a differential tuition increase.
- The engineering building in Fairbanks will be completed and open for use by January 2018, pending bond-approval from the Board of Regents.
- President Johnson entertained questions about UA Athletics, value of input on Strategic Pathways, and ways to effectively advocate on behalf of the University.

D. Deans Report – Dr. Barlow

- CoEng enrollment is up, with approximate 4% increase in headcount and almost 6% increase in student credit hours. We are being proactive about reaching out to current and prospective students, and it is working.

- We have a revitalized webpage and a new Facebook page to connect with prospective students through technology.
- Our Summer Engineering Academies, led by Professor Scott Hamel, are a huge success, introducing students to STEM disciplines and the prospect of a future in engineering. We expanded to Mat-Su, and are looking at ways to minimize waitlists for various sessions next year.
- The Engineering and Computation Building is now finished and open, housing CS, CS&E, GEO, ME, the machine shop and Advising Center. The EIB will house CE, EE, and ESPM.
- Melissa Branch will be the keynote speaker at this year's Women in Engineering Night, November 4th.
- Dean Barlow mentioned several personnel changes.
 - Resignations of Radian Belu from EE, Ganhua Lu from ME, and Randy Moulic from CSE
 - Shawn Butler has been hired on as faculty for CSE
 - Former Associate Dean for Academics, Kenrick Mock, is now the Chair of CSE
 - Rob Lang has stepped into the role of Associate Dean for Academics.
 - Joey Yang is the new Chair of CE
 - Alice Bullington has moved from a term to an adjunct professor
 - LuAnn Picard has been promoted to tenured Associate Professor and Director of ESPM
 - Roger Hull is now a term Assistant Professor
 - The role of Administrative Assistants are being restructured to ensure proper staff and facilities support
- Several curriculum changes in the works
 - Various MS degrees in CE have been consolidated into one degree, with options for various emphases.
 - We are working with CTC to teach the introductory CAD courses in order to increase efficiency by combining some of their CAD curriculum with the engineering CAD curriculum.
 - Engineering Management (EM) and Science Management (SM) are very small programs and may not be viable in the future. This fall there are only 13 students combined in these two programs and for the 2015-2016 academic year the EM program produced two graduates and the SM program produced zero graduates.
 - We have signed MOU's with both Anchorage & Mat-Su School districts to offer very basic classes, i.e., ENGR 105A & B, and 151 & 161, utilizing our exact curriculum, textbook, and exams. Students could get credit at both their high school and on a UAA transcript. This should begin, perhaps, by the spring, but certainly by the fall of next year.
- Strategic Pathways update

- Thanks to all CoEng faculty, staff and Advisory Board members (Virginia Groeschel, Boyd Morgenthaler, and Alex Hills), the exhaustive process resulted in a recommendation to maintain two Engineering programs at UAA and UAF, with increased collaboration between the two programs on both research and academics.
 - Bryan & Dean Barlow gave a presentation to the Chancellor, President & the Vice President on the August 17th.
 - Dean Barlow fielded questions and comments on the ESM program, Project Lead the Way classes in area high schools and home school programs, distance delivery of classes, continuing education and graduate classes, collaboration with UAF and resulting cost savings, collaboration with ANSEP, research/intellectual property, legislative advocacy, and future demand for workforce development/enrollment.
- E. Communications Committee Report- Melissa Branch
- The Communications Committee has been discussing the need to facilitate communication between UAA and UAF, and the need for Board members to have tools to share information about CoEng activities with their companies, as well as ways to communicate about some of the budget challenges we're facing. Group discussion ensued.
- F. Sr. Development Officer Report - Jayna Combs
- Due to lack of a consistent message, the Strategic Pathways process has somewhat eroded confidence in CoEng, making the work of the Communications Committee very important.
 - The Alumni Association will be offering tours in the ECB on 9/22 from 5-7 for all alumni & board members, and there will be a separate tour for board members following this meeting.
 - BP has, once again, funded the UAA Summer Engineering Academy and also provided four \$5000 scholarships to UAA Mechanical Engineering students, which they traveled to Houston to accept.
 - The R&R completion scholarship has been funded again, providing a \$20,000 per year scholarship for one student.
 - The Conoco Phillips Arctic Science and Engineering Endowment Award proposals are due October 1, 2016, with an anticipated total of \$400,000 available this year for Arctic Science and Engineering Awards.
 - Many foundations will not fund organizations without 100% board financial participation, regardless of amount given by each individual. Jayna offered donation forms and information about ways to donate to CoEng online.
 - Jayna fielded a question on building naming opportunities, and received comments on the quality of students receiving the BP scholarships.
- G. Student/Faculty Project Presentation – Katie Mattos & Greg Michaelson (graduate students working with Aaron Dotson on the Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge)

- The students gave a detailed report on the project, which is looking at water reuse as an option for healthy, sustainable water usage in rural Alaska. UAA is one of three teams selected to move forward on this project. Now in Phase Three, in addition to building and piloting the system on campus, they will also work with the communities to include feedback to ensure the ultimate practical implementation of the system in rural locations.
- This project is an invaluable hands-on learning opportunity.
- The students also fielded questions about the project from interested board members.

IV. Old Business

- A. Kim Riggs provided an update on status of both CoEng buildings.
- B. Student Representative – Udayan Dutta
 - Engineering clubs are starting up again, and a request was made for any interested board members involved in HVAC to get involved. As an example, IEEE club brings in professionals to make presentations to the student chapter during club meetings.
 - Board members offered constructive comments that Udayan will share with the clubs.
 - Comments by the Chair
Everyone is requested to make sure their resumes, bios and pictures are up-to-date on the CoEng website

V. New Business

- Board members have been polled and the unanimous response is to endorse the recommendations of the Strategic Pathways Engineering Working Group for Collaborative Alignment between UAA and UAF engineering programs.
- Chair Loren Leman Loren requested action on a formal resolution of support, presented by Boyd. The resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.

IV. Persons to be Heard

- A. UAF College of Engineering And Mines Dean - Douglas Goering: Dean Goering
 - Dean Goering emphasized how he appreciates the spirit of collaboration that has been the hallmark of the Strategic Pathways Engineering Working Group's efforts, a sentiment which was echoed by various board members.
 - He offered examples of ideal candidates for course sharing, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems with Professor Hatfield in Fairbanks and Matt Cullin's corrosion class this semester, and is hopeful that, working together, UAF and UAA will be able to overcome some of the inevitable challenges of curricular alignment and course schedules going forward.
 - For example, they do not teach corrosion in Fairbanks since they have lost several faculty members. Therefore working together is critical. There are still some challenges in terms of course schedules and curricular alignment between the two universities.

- Dean Goering recalled how the engineering communities in Fairbanks and Anchorage were instrumental in making the engineering building projects a reality, and how that kind of support will be important as we face further budget cuts in Juneau.

- **Committee Reports:**
 - Engineering Policy (Boyd Morgenthaler): No report
 - Facilities: No additional report
 - Membership (Chairmanship Available): No report
 - Chairman Lemman introduced a prospective new board member, Stephanie Mormillo
 - Communications (Melissa Branch): See report above
 - UAA/UAF Joint Committee (Richard Reich): No report, just pleased with the great collaboration between universities at this point.

- **Announcements and Member Comments:**
 - Next board meeting, Friday, December 2nd - Chairman Lemman moved to maintain meetings at the EIB, carried unanimously.
 - Member Comments
 - Greg Schmidt- New member, retired Air Force, has been an engineer since 2009
 - Nicole Knox – New member, happy to be involved, hoping to be more active
 - Jenny Jemison – Will be living and working for the next six months in Russia, so will be attending the next meetings telephonically.
 - Virginia Groeschel - Younger Oliver in the Advising Center is setting up a resume workshop for students on Wednesday, September 14th, and is looking for volunteers to talk to students and review resumes.

- **Adjournment**

Without objection, Chairman Loren Lemman adjourned the meeting.