

# UAA College of Engineering Advisory Board

Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 7:30-9:00 am

Location: Engineering Building Room 413

## Meeting Minutes

### I) Welcome and Introductions

Loren Leman called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Loren Leman then proceeded to thank Ellie Soto and all those involved for the arrangements, coffee, and snacks present at the meeting.

Roll call was conducted by the Executive Assistant to the Dean of the College of Engineering, Ellie Soto.

Attendees: Board members – Melissa Branch, Paul Brooks, Derek Christianson (via telephonic), Jack Colonell, Pat Coullahan, Dan Fawcett, Mark Frischkorn, Virginia Groeschel, James Hemsath, Alex Hills (telephonic), Jenny Jemison, John Lau, Loren Leman (Chair), Boyd Morgenthaler, Scott Pessetto, Richard Reich, George Skladal, Steve Weaver, Jon Zufelt

Ex-Officio Advisory Board Members – Mark Ayers, Doug Goering (telephonic), Paul Kelly, Warren Lucas, Ann Ringstad (telephonic), Nathan Wardwell

UAA/CoEng Staff and Faculty Members – Jim Johnson (telephonic), Tom Case, Samuel Gingerich, Fred Barlow, Kim Riggs, Jayna Combs

Absent: John Aho, Catherine Call, Bruce Davison (Excused), Michael Todd, Rob Barnett (Excused), Berry Kirksey, Kenrick Mock (excused), Tom Ravens

### II) Board Housekeeping

A Approval of the Agenda

Loren Leman moved that the agenda presented be approved.

No objections were made, motion carried.

B Approval of the Minutes

Loren Leman moved that the minutes presented be approved.

No objections were made, motion carried.

### III) Special Order of Business

A Chancellor Tom Case (Arrived late, thus he followed UA President Dr. James “Jim” Johnson)

- Chancellor Case first introduced himself and then thanked everyone for attending. He then expressed his gratitude towards the Advisory Board for their service and the progress that has been made, putting an emphasis on his appreciation for the collaboration between the UAA and UAF advisory boards.
- He then turned his attention towards the continuing fiscal issue in the state. Chancellor Case discussed the means that are being taken to deal with such issues, which include performing program reviews, prioritizing, and working towards maintaining core competencies strong. He believes that through the efficiency measures and cuts being taken, we, as a College, can make the whole collegiate process leaner and more effective. He then offered the reminder that through these difficult times it is important to maintain moral. In closing, he stated that

the engineering programs are going well and thanked Dean Barlow for his efforts, which accredit for much of the success.

B UA President Dr. James “Jim” Johnson

- President Johnson first introduced himself and thanked the advisory board for allowing him to join them. He then discussed his visit to UAF and his tour of the Usibelli coal mine, which is tied to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and their College of Engineering. He expressed his gratitude for being given this opportunity and stated that he enjoyed his time spent in this setting. He felt that the coal mine speaks to the strength of engineering education and applied engineering research at the University of Alaska for the state of Alaska.
- President Johnson then discussed his 90-day observation, which had a strong emphasis on the fiscal challenges that the University of Alaska is facing. He then moved the conversation towards the solutions to this issue. These solutions include: fixed cost increase, a few changes on the operating budget side, and, very important to the University of Alaska and the state of Alaska, the 38.4 million dollars needed for the completion of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering building. Johnson then thanked the board for their continued support and advocacy for these solutions, with additional emphasis being placed on their support for the new University of Alaska Fairbanks Engineering building.
- Johnson believes that it is likely that, even though they have asked for an increase from the legislature and despite the fiscal challenges the state is facing, there will be a budget reduction for the third straight year. He believes that we, as a College, should start forming a plan to deal with these reductions, and not just a plan that will allow us to barley get by, but a plan that will allow the college to thrive. The implementation of such a plan would consist of focusing on specific strategic areas where reductions can take place and areas where revenue can increase. Johnson suggested that we could diversify our revenue base by investing more in development and fundraising capabilities within the College. Essentially, Johnson believes the answer is not to just make cuts, but instead to trim and invest in areas that will inhibit growth of the College of Engineering and the University of Alaska.
- Johnson believes that the University should start pursuing more private funding. The University of Alaska Board of Trustees authorized the foundation staff and university staff to move forward on forming a major fundraising program. The first year of the program has been a fairly quiet phase, focusing on alumni across the state, pushing on individuals with capacity for gifts, and raising public awareness on the importance of the university and its role in the state.
- He then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for the opportunity of being there and speaking.

C Provost Sam Gingerich

- Provost Gingerich first introduced himself and then thanked everyone for their attendance in the meeting. He then extended his thanks towards the Advisory Board for their advocacy towards the Engineering programs.
- He then emphasized the importance to maintain relevant programs that suit the current professions found in the engineering field, especially on the Alaska specific sectors of

engineering. Provost Gingerich expressed that it is very necessary to access where the University of Alaska Anchorage and the College of Engineering are currently, and to work towards where and what we want this University and College to go and become. The College of Engineering is one of the strongest aspects of the University of Alaska Anchorage, and this is why growth is such a key factor to the success of the University. He then suggested that this requires continued and more advanced cooperation and coordination with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

- He then highlighted a great sign of this growth through the actions of Dean Barlow. Earlier this week, the Dean dropped off a penultimate draft of a 2+2 Articulation Agreement for Chemical Engineering with Washington State University. This is currently being reviewed by colleagues statewide and we are very close to agreeing on a program that will provide a pathway for Alaska students to pursue Chemical Engineering.

#### D Dean's Report – Dr. Fred Barlow

- Fred first formally introduced himself and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. His first announcement was that Professor Helen Lu, who teaches in the Civil Engineering Department, will be retiring in January. Currently there is an application in the process for Professor Lu to become an Emeritus Professor
- Fred also announced that there are two ongoing searches for faculty members in ESPM and CS respectively. Despite these departments being thinly staffed, both programs have experienced tremendous growth.
- Fred was proud to announce that the College of Engineering now has a Facebook page. Facebook serves as a good communication tool to connect with students and other members of the community. Several people within the College of Engineering are responsible for maintaining the page and making sure that it is updated.
- The College of Engineering is also in the process of revamping its webpage on the UAA website. By early next year, there will be a completely new page on the website. This new webpage will be better in terms of being easier to access information and maneuver.
- The College of Engineering hosted its annual "Women in Engineering Event" this past November. The event saw over 100 attendees that consisted of professional engineers from the community, UAA students and high school students. At the event, there was a session of speed mentoring, where prospective engineers were able to go around and talk and ask questions with members of the industry and professionals. Due to the great success of the event, the College of Engineering is looking at throwing more events like it as a way to increase female participation in engineering.
- There is a verbal agreement on a 2+2 Articulation Agreement in place that would serve as a vehicle for UAA and potentially UAF students to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. Fred is hoping that this agreement is finalized and signed very soon. One of the reasons the state may be losing students to the lower 48 is because there isn't a chemical engineer program up here, so by implementing one at UAA, the hopes would be that there is more participation in engineering and fewer students leaving the state to pursue education.
- Research Initiatives

- (i) Fred stated that the College of Engineering is making an effort to expand research. Specifically the College is looking at applied research that would solve problems for Alaska. There are many examples in place where applied research is being conducted at trying to solve some problems that Alaskans face and as a result, make life better for Alaskans:
  - (ii) The Arctic Domain Awareness Center is working with issues in the Arctic. One of the main issues that have arisen is that there is a lot of Alaskan coastline, which makes it difficult to monitor it. There have been instances where ships have appeared off the coast seemingly out of nowhere, and entities such as the Coast Guard are concerned about the incidents that could arise and their ability to respond to them. The center is working towards establishing more awareness of coastline within the arctic as a way to establish stronger homeland security.
  - (iii) Faculty at the University is looking at improving water and sewer services and implementing wind energy in rural villages as a way to make life better for Alaskan out in rural parts.
  - (iv) The College of Engineering is looking at sample testing, specifically corrosion testing and mechanical testing. Since there are a lot of facilities within the engineering building, industry can send things to be tested at the university and data collected here within the state, as opposed to sending it to the lower 48. This not only keeps business within the state, but it also great training for students.
  - (v) Currently, faculty members within the College of Engineering are looking at developing new materials to improve the durability and life of roads in Alaska.
  - (vi) One of the benefits of all of this applied research is that students can be trained and be financially supported by the external funding these projects bring. Research is also a good training tool for faculty, as it helps keep them current with the current standards of industry.
  - (vii) Fred also told the board that one of the issues the College of Engineering was looking at was the available infrastructure for research. There is an array of infrastructure items needed in order to conduct research, from proposal preparation to following government regulation, which requires a support network that allows students and faculty to conduct research. If all necessary components of research are structured correctly, the charges that are associated with it can be recouped in Facilities and Administration Charges (F&A). The College of Engineering is looking at reorganizing research infrastructure into a more efficient model, through enhancing support and optimizing processes. Tom Ravens, a professor in the Civil Engineering Department has been appointed as the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Engineering and his role is facilitating this reorganization of research.
- Student Success
    - (i) The College of Engineering has begun to initiate some new practices towards Student Success Initiatives. The retention within engineering is not 100%, and one of the ways to improve the retention rate of students and keep them graduating is to help them.

- (ii) Mandatory Advising One of the ways this is being done is through the implementation for lower division students. Students now have to receive advising before they can register for classes. The benefit of this is that students are given a structured plan to follow when choosing the right classes to take. Many of the departments within the College have extended this mandatory advising into the upper division levels. Every semester, upper division students need to schedule an appointment with a senior faculty member and receive not only academic advising, but also career advising.
- (iii) Homework Night – The College of Engineering hosts a homework night every Thursday where students are able to receive tutoring or help on homework from older students and faculty members.
- (iv) Tutoring Center- On the second floor of the engineering build, there is a dedicated space where students can meet with tutors throughout the week for help on homework. The Tutoring Center is very popular as it is always filled with students working with tutors.
- Community Outreach
  - (i) Dean Barlow want to make it very clear that engaging the community is essential to being successful as a College. He then presented the notion of meeting with each Advisory Board member to better understand their perspectives and to attempt to find the best and most efficient way that they can contribute to the College. Dean Barlow also intends to gain more of a presence in the local high schools, already having spoken with Superintendent Ed Graff to attempt to find some outlets to accomplish this goal. The other type of outreach Dean Barlow is pursuing is one between the College and local Industry. He has already spoken with Alaska Power Association about possibly forming a connection with the College through internships and future employees of Alaska Power Association. Dean Barlow intends to continue forming this type of connection with many of the other local sources. In order to pursue this more efficiently, Dean Barlow, Richard Reich, Chantel Walsh, and Doug Goering have been collaborating to look at ways in which UAA and UAF can work together. The initial meeting of this group was held on November 16<sup>th</sup> and they hope to continue communication and continue collaboration.
- Questions and Comments:
  - (i) President Johnson: How are you working with the businesses to be able to obtain rights to information so faculty and students can publish, which is important for their careers?
    - (a) It is always a balancing act. We can do NDAs and, in often cases, we can work with the industry to structure it such that parts of the work can be publishable for the student. However, some parts of the data that may be sensitive to the company can be protected. We simply just have to look at it on a case by case basis. As the College of Engineering, it is important to us that we help industry, work with industry, and be a part of industry. There are going be times when the intellectual property is going to need to be confidential and we are putting in mechanisms in place to deal with that.
  - (ii) Jenny Jemison: I like the idea of academic advising, I feel like that is something that we did poorly in the past, but thinking about the practical aspects of that and wondering if

we actually have the faculty to support all of the students and if that would have implications for engineering students signing up for classes outside of the College of Engineering versus for just engineering classes. I was wondering if we are able to handle the number of students that want to sign up for classes on time.

- (a) We have a professional advising group, which consists of a few advisors, and then a faculty portion that advises as well. Crickett Watt is the one that leads the professional advising group and we are looking at expanding that so that's our solution. I've spoken to Crickett many times about the logistics of mandatory advising and how to make sure all of our students are getting the advising they need. We are looking at this very critically and making sure we have enough staff available so students are able to get what they need.
- (iii) Mark Frischkorn: Most of the high schools in the ASD are trying to have an engineering program, are you tapping into those programs as well?
  - (a) I spent some time with Loren at the Advisory group for the Dimond Engineering program, which is an example of someone we are looking to work with. One of the things that they would like to have is articulate accreditation. We want to make it easy for anyone that wants to enter the UA system to become an engineer. We are working hard to make them a partner.
- (iv) Alex Hills: Glad to hear all of the discussion about the role of research in the college, this was a part of the strategic plan produced a few years ago. With respect to the comment about the intellectual property aspect when working with industry, I have been very involved with the UA system and dealing with their intellectual property so I would be willing to help you out if you needed it. The other comment I have is about collaboration between UAA and UAF. I suspect you may already have this in the works, one kind of collaboration I have thought about quite a bit, especially with the cell conference facilities that the university has and all the technology available at UAA and UAF, I think it's probably fair to expect that as the budget pressures come to bear during the legislative session, a lot of attention in that area and inevitably I think the universities will focus on lightly enrolled course, and maybe in some departments, targeting these courses and ask why are we teaching these. The strong collaboration between UAA and UAF is a perfect opportunity for those kinds of courses, which may tend to be graduate level or senior level courses that don't have much enrollment in common sects between UAA and UAF, where you have one professor at either location, students at both locations, and having arrangements in place where students can get credit for that course in their own institution, and don't have to worry about transferring credits. I think that it is a great opportunity and a way to respond to our bosses where they are concerned about classes and budgets.
- (v) George Skladal: I was wondering if the College of Engineering would be interested in getting more involved with industry with regards to corrosion.
  - (a) We would love to do that. That is definitely a point of interest for us.

(vi) John Zufelt: Due to potential increase costs in publications as a result of open access charges, you may want to look at what journals are going to be most important to faculty to publish in and what's going to be best for their careers.

(vii) You talk about improving the advising program, and channeling students into a career. Have you looked at the need within the state of Alaska in particular engineering disciplines and how that advising is going to be focused on particular disciplines within the industries? How're we going to advise engineers in regards to the future economy of Alaska and where are we going to need those engineers? It is important for advising to tell students the potential job markets there are when the student gets out of school.

(a) The State collects data and reports on their projections for different types of engineering disciplines. This is something that we look at very closely. The majority of our students come with an idea of what discipline they want, which makes it easier for us to steer them in the right direction. Something we can talk to them about is figuring out the needs of the discipline and potential careers. Engineers are in high demand; there are probably not enough engineers across the board in all the disciplines, so there should be work available for engineers despite a down economy.

E Sr. Development Officer Comments – Jayna Combs

- Jayna first introduced herself and explained her position to the Advisory Board and meeting attendees. She then discussed the Conoco Phillip's Art and Science and Engineering Endowment Award, which was awarded on November 16<sup>th</sup>. \$280,000 was awarded to four different proposals, half going towards sciences and half going towards engineering. Next year it looks like \$380,000 will be awarded.
- She then mentioned the request, from the previous meeting, to receive donor letters. These letters have been sent out, and she wanted to make sure that everyone knew that they should be expecting them very soon.
- She also mentioned that the current donors should have received Thanksgiving cards, and this was the first year that the College has ever done this.

F Student Representative – Paul Kelly/Co-Chair of the CoEng Student Council

- Paul Kelly first introduced himself and thanked those in attendance for having him. He then informed the board and additional attendees that this will be his last semester as the Co-Chair of the CoEng Student Council, which he had been for the past year and a half. He is stepping down from his position due to his graduation in the upcoming semester. He then informed the group of the duties of the student council, which include encouraging coordination between student clubs, organizing activities to elicit awareness about the clubs, and to help student organizations and clubs fund their projects.
- As a report for last semester, they hosted Engineer's Friday Night on October 16<sup>th</sup>; an estimated 100 students attended this event. Five clubs participated in this event. They contributed \$2000 towards the Baja team's trip to California. They also helped raise funds for other student organizations by renting out the lockers in the Engineering and Industry Building.

- Loren Leman encouraged Paul and the student council to inform the Dean’s Office and Advisory Board of the Engineer’s Friday Night events in the future, so they could attend and show their support. The rest of the board showed agreeance with Loren Leman’s notion.
- G Student-Faculty Project Presentation – Dr. Scott Hamel and Civil Engineering student Sava White – Sponsored Research from AISC on “Structural Steel Thermal-Bridging through Building Envelopes”
- Doctor Hamel first introduced himself and then presented the topic of the presentation at hand, which focused on structural engineering. He then introduced his Master’s degree seeking student in Civil Engineering, Sava White. Sava White introduced his project by first mentioning that it is funded by the American Institute of Steel Construction and sponsored by Structural Engineering Association of Alaska, who primarily sponsored the experimental research. He started this project in January 2014 and it follows a four phase plan. These phases include modeling and simulating heat flow, performing heat flow experiments based on the information found from the former phase, perform modeling and simulation that include stresses and strains, and the final phase is structural experiments, which is currently taking place in the Engineering and Industry Building room 108A.
  - The primary purpose of his project is to form suggestions for improvements to the issues surrounding thermal-bridging. The primary issue caused by thermal-bridging deals with the conductivity of steel and heat transfer that leads to the build-up of condensation, resulting in wasted energy in the form of heat. The common solution to this issue to this is placing a low conductivity pad in-between the steel connection, which helps to prevent the transfer of heat.
  - Questions:
    - (i) You mentioned that bolts are the primary conductor of heat transfer; do have any suggestions to remedy this issue?
      - (a) Some alternatives to the traditional bolts would be those made of a different material. Some of the alternatives could be stainless steel bolts, solutions or coating to lower the conductivity of the bolts, or possibly expanding on the research with FRP bolts to put them in use.
    - (ii) Have you done economic research to see the payout time of switching to the more efficient bolts versus the extra money spent due to heat transfer?
      - (a) Yes, we have looked into this. The results show that the payout time is very far off and it appears that the most efficient way to solve this problem is to attempt to solve the condensation issue.

#### IV) Old Business:

- A UAA Engineering Buildings Update – Kim Riggs
- New Building: Kim informed the group that we have completed our first semester in the new building without any major issues. The final certificate of occupancy should be issued at the end of this year, the only thing holding this back is the need for the elevators to be tied into the standby generator power, which will take place over winter break. After this the



only prominent task will be to have the final pressurization of the H-VAC system performed. It is noted that these projects are on time and on budget.

- Old Building: Kim reported that renovations appear to be on schedule. They have taken down majority of the siding, completed demolition on the inside, completed majority of the framing, and are currently working on installing windows and electrical extremities. We still plan to move in this summer, with the completion date being near the end of June to the beginning of July. The bridge is almost up between the building and the parking garage. The Parking garage is nearing completion, with the concrete already in place on the fourth floor. It is noted that these projects are on time and on budget.
- Questions:
  - (i) In your last presentation you mentioned that they were going to be redoing the roof, is that still happening? What is the current state of this project?
    - (a) They replaced the roof. The issue was that asbestos was found in the siding and this prevented them from being able to drill and otherwise perform demolition as was originally intended.

**B Chairman's Challenge and Annual Report – Loren Leman**

- Chairman Leman first stated that the topics he will be covering have been electronically shared with those in attendance if they wished to follow along in that manner. He also welcomed any questions or suggestions on improvement of the content he provided. He then discussed how he believes the implementation of the Annual Report is very important and how he enjoys that it allows the group to reflect the past year and hopefully pave the way for improvements.
- Chairman Leman had one major improvement that he wanted to see within the Advisory Board and that was more activity in the various committees outside of the triannual meetings. He hopes that these committees can become more prevalent and perform their duties to a higher level for the betterment of the University of Alaska Anchorage and the College of Engineering.
- Questions and Comments:
  - (i) Steve Weaver: Over the past few years we have looked at curriculum, general engineering versus civil engineering, and building facilities. I think this raises the question; do we still need these committees? Are we working towards the right things with our committees? Is our curriculum relevant and resulting in graduates being hired in the field? I think these are some questions that could spark some reflection on what we are doing and how our committees function.

**V) New Business**

**A Bylaws "reviser's" changes regarding names of College of Engineering and Advisory Board**

- The main reason for this proposal is that the School of Engineering changed to College of Engineering, causing a ripple effect of change that created a few inconsistencies in the bylaws. The first change to be made is the usage of College of Engineering instead of CoEng; this will help to form consistency while reading the bylaws. The second change deals with the proposed agenda format. We currently follow a very similar format as the one

prescribed in our bylaws, thus the proposal is simply to make our current format the standard and write it into our bylaws. In order for these proposals to pass, we will need a 2/3 vote from the members of the board. Both proposals were passed.

**B Confirmation of officers and Spring election**

- According to our bylaws, every two years, in the spring meeting, the board is meant to hold a vote to elect our officers, and they will assume their position in the fall meeting. There was an oversight, Chairman Lemman and Jon Zufelt have held their position for the past three years and there was no vote held to elect new officers last spring. The bylaws state that officers can only serve two consecutive two year terms. The solution reached by the board is that, during the next spring meeting, a vote will be held to either elect new officers or to reelect Chairman Lemman and Jon Zufelt to serve one more year, thus resulting in them reaching their maximum four consecutive years in office.

**VI) Persons to be Heard:**

**A UAF College of Engineering and Mines Dean – Doug Goering (Spoke Earlier)**

- Doug Goering first introduced himself and thanked everyone for having him. He expressed his excitement and gratitude for the progress that the Joint Advisory Board was making, helping to create a stronger connection between UAA and UAF. He then discussed some of the challenging matters that UAF is facing, and some of them – including challenges regarding the NDA, F&A and budget – are shared with UAA. Dean Barlow and Dean Goering have been working together to form more outlets for joint teaching between universities. Next year, there will be common course blocks between the two universities. It is not finalized how these classes will be taught, but live video is currently one of the more viable options.
- Questions:
  - (i) Where do you think things stand with differential tuition, specifically is it conceivable that we will have that within the next Academic Year?
    - (a) I think that it is conceivable that we can have it in the next academic year. I think that it depends on how quick VP White can get any directives out coming from his efforts. We do not have a firm timeline of when this will be done until this progress has been made. One way in which it could be implemented within the year is by doing it on a fee basis, since fees do not have to go through the Board of Regents, they are much easier to deal with and the University would be able to get the money from the fees.

**B Chair of UAF CEMADC – Bryan Clemenz, P.E. (invited)**

- Nothing to report.

**C Legislative Update – Ann Ringstad (invited)**

- Ann first thanked everyone for their involvement and efforts. She then discussed how this will be a tough upcoming legislative session in the near future, making it clear that we need to fight for as much support and funding as we can. The session will be January 19th to April 17th, although she was not certain of these dates. She also made it clear that she will keep the board well informed of the progress being made.

## VII) Committee Reports:

- A Engineering Policy – Boyd Morgenthaler: The Policy Committee consists of Pat Coulahan, Dan Faucet, Alex Hills, Loren Leman, and Boyd Morgenthaler. Earlier that week, Boyd Morgenthaler mentioned that the Policy Committee meant with Dean Barlow to do some brainstorming on how to better prep incoming freshman, and, ultimately, graduate more engineers. Some of the issues that he highlighted dealt with a lack of preparation in Math and the Sciences. He then suggested that the best way to do this to get more engineering into the local high schools and in other colleges, like Matsu College. Three important opportunities were established to take place in the Anchorage school district. The first is to come up with a new articulation agreement with the engineering academies in South and Dimond High School, the second opportunity is with advanced placement credit, and the third is to inspire K-12 students to become engineers.
- Questions:
    - (i) Steve Weaver: Have you partnered with ANSEP to accomplish this goal?
      - (a) We have a meeting set up with Kirk Shroder, and hopefully he can help us accomplish these outreach goals.
    - (ii) Virginia Groeschel: Is there a model to solve the issues that you discussed about students not being prepared in the subjects of Math and the Sciences? Do you have some type of plan in mind that can better help students take the courses that they need?
      - (a) No, currently we are in the beginning phase of this project. As of now, we have done little more than discuss and start to identify the root of this problem that we are seeing.
- B Facilities: No additional report
- C Membership – John Aho: Not in attendance. Chairman Leman mentioned that one position is currently available.
- D Graduate Research – Jon Zufelt: There have been no concrete plans made as of now, but we are hopeful and some plans are currently being made to have meetings to discuss the next step.
- E Communications – Melissa Branch: Melissa first discussed some of the issues with the Advisory Boards and College's communication. These issues can be found internally and externally, Melissa focused on the externally suggesting that one of the biggest problems is the lack of communication between the College and the local engineering industry. She is planning to have a meeting in January to have a brainstorming session to help to improve the communications and welcomes all who wish to attend. Melissa is also planning on recruiting more members for the Communications Committee.
- F UAA/UAF Joint Committee – Richard Reich: Richard reported that the group has not had a meeting yet, but he did participate in the UAF Council meeting. It is now apparent that both UAA and UAF are now capable of having a Joint Committee meeting, thus Richard hopes to begin planning this meeting in the near future.

## VIII) Department Chair Reports:

- A Electrical Engineering Chair – Mark Ayers:
- Mark first introduced himself and gave the board a brief background on his professional life. He then shared his hopes and plans for the program, which focused heavily on forming

internships and giving students more of a realistic glimpse into the professional engineering world.

**B Civil Engineering Chair – Warren Lucas:**

- Warren introduced himself and then briefly discussed some of the difficulties they were facing with employment and they hope to regroup to change this. He also mentioned that a lot of their focus is currently on the upcoming ABET accreditation visit, that is happening fall of 2016.

**C Geomatics Engineering Chair – Nathan Wardwell:**

- Nathan introduced himself then briefly discussed the recent changes in course work that are happening in the Geomatics program.

**IX) Announcements and Member Comments:**

**A Next Regular Board Meeting is going to be on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 am. Location is EIB 413.**

**B Member Comments:**

- **Melissa Branch:**
  - (i) As the chair of the Scholarship Committee for the upcoming Engineer's Week, and she wanted to make sure that everyone was aware if they wished to donate. Donations go through AEEF, who facilitate the scholarships for Engineer's Week. She is also seeking judges to review the applications for the Engineer's Week scholarships.
- **Scott Passetto:**
  - (i) Scott wanted to mention that Conoco Philips often provides internships, which they often use as hiring mechanisms. He wanted to make it clear that there are multiple ways for companies to recruit graduates to work in the field.

**X) Adjournment:**

Loren adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am. He wanted to invite everyone to the party on the second floor near the bridge. He then wanted to remind everyone that if they have an orientation class to report to 211 by 10:20. The chancellor also wanted to invite everyone to support UAA Volleyball and engineering, through supporting the engineering student Julia Mackey. Lastly he wanted to remind everyone that if they wished to make contributions for 2015 that they have the rest of the month to do so.