

UAA College of Engineering Advisory Board

Friday, April 24, 2015, 7:30 – 9:30 am, Student Union South Cafeteria

Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions** *Chairman Leman called the meeting to order at 7:32am and welcomed attendees. CoEng Executive Assistant, Ellie Soto took roll call.*

Attendees: J. Aho, M. Branch, P. Brooks, D. Christianson, J. Colonell, B. Davison, M. Frischkorn, J. Hemsath, V. Groeschel (Telephonic), A. Hills, J. Jemison, L. Leman, B. Morgenthaler, R. Reich, G. Skladal, S. Weaver, J. Zufelt

Not in Attendance: C. Call, P. Coullahan (Excused), D. Fawcett (Excused), J. Lau (Excused), S. Pessetto (Excused, Sara Pate as Substitute), M. Todd and Bryan Clemenz (Chair of UAF CEMADC)

Ex-Officio & Guests: D. Goering (Telephonic), A. Ringstad (Telephonic), P. Kelly, Provost S. Gingerich (Excused) and Chancellor Case.

UAA/CoEng Staff: Kenrick Mock, B. Quimby (Excused), K. Riggs, J. Combs

- II. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda, no objections, and agenda was approved.

A. **Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2014 Meeting:** Minutes were approved, no objections or changes.

- III. Special Order of Business:**

A. Chancellor Tom Case

- Chancellor Case thanked everyone for being here and shared his appreciation to the board members and those who participated in the search for the new dean. He reported that the search for the new dean was reaching a closing, letting members know that the new dean selection should be finalized by the end of the following week. Tom then discussed the presence of the provost, Sam Gingerich, who will be a temporary provost while the College transitions to a new, long-term provost. His current contract is for one year, with a one year extension; giving the College two years to find a more permanent replacement. Tom then introduced the budget issue, informing the attendees that the College of Engineering is going to be \$18 to 22 million short this year from what was originally budgeted. This is for UAA alone; although, the other UA campuses are also suffering from budget cuts. In order to deal with this issue, the University intends to preserve its core academic principles in the most cost-effective manner. He then urged that everyone be aware that we, as a University, will get through the budget issues and to extend this reassurance toward the student body. In order to help with the budget issue, furloughs, periods of time that faculty will be off contract and not paid, will be introduced. The senior faculty and those in senior leadership positions will take the most extended furloughs, hoping to lead by example. Spring commencement will also be taking place in a few days, with an especially large number of students, more than 600 committed to attend the ceremony. All work for the new construction involved with the new Engineering and Industry Building (EIB) is on schedule and on budget, with the building being, roughly, 85% completed and an expected, July move in date. Also, the bridge connecting the Health Science Building and the Engineering and Industry Building is 60% complete, hopefully functional by the start of the fall semester. The renewal of the current Engineering Building is schedule to be finished by the beginning of the fall semester of 2016. It was pointed out that President Gamble has formed a very good leadership approach. The Summit Team is composed of the president and vice president of Academics, the three Chancellors, the three Provosts, and a representative from General Council. They have worked to form consistency in the State's general education requirements, transferability of credit, and budget issues, just to name a few.

- B. Dean's Report – Dr. Kenrick Mock (**See attached presentation**)

Dr. Mock noted that there was a change to his presentation that was not noted on the Agenda. The change was simply skipping over the New Dean Search, due to the previous announcement of the identity of the new dean, Fred Barlow, by Bart Quimby. Kenrick then began his presentation with Prioritization.

- New Dean Search
- Enrollment, outlook; Prioritization, Vision & Website; Strategic Planning
- Dean's excellence Award List
- BSE split into 3 Degrees
- Sr. Development Officer Introduction – Jayna Combs
- EIB Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, September 10, 2015

- Questions and Comments:
Kenrick had two additional topics to discuss. These included his interest in starting a chapter of Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society) and he wanted to extend his thanks to Bart Quimby for all of his help during this transition period between deans. A member then mentioned the possibility of Kenrick seeking out other professors, faculty, and board members who are members of Tau Beta Pi to help him accomplish his goal. This then sprouted the idea of possibly establishing an alumni chapter of Tau Beta Pi as well. Chancellor Case then discussed the upcoming commencement ceremony and the issues with limited space. The solution was, for those who wished to attend and do not have direct relation to any students graduating, to seek out Jayna Combs to obtain a ticket.
- C. Student Representative – Paul Kelly/Co-Chair of the CoEng Student Council
 - Paul reported that the College of Engineering Club Council has been able to remain relevant by associating itself with other student groups on campus and hosting events.
 - Chancellor Case complimented and thanked Paul on all the work that he and his fellow council members have done to help further the College of Engineering, primarily from a student involvement perspective.
- D. Student-Faculty Project Presentation – Big Lake MTA Project by John Pahkala, Derek Boyce, Dr. Alex Hills (**See attached presentation**)
 - John first introduced the company, MTA, and then discussed some issues that showcased why the project they are working on is needed.
 - The project featured the unique opportunity to work with a client. The actual product was to create a microwave system for MTA to speed up the internet service that they provide to help increase the speed and availability of internet and data to MTA users located in Big Lake, a very spaced and vast community that is serviced heavily by MTA.
 - The opportunity to work with a real life client during their project helped them to gain additional and valuable experience.
 - They then discussed the struggles they faced through each step of this process, which had many trials and errors. In the end, they succeeded in their goal.
 - They were under budget, only using just over \$900,000 of the allotted \$1.6 million.
 - Questions/Comments:
 - **Has the company installed or used any of the product that you created?** No, there is a meeting that will be held in the near future to discuss the next steps.
 - There were many comments highlighting the added benefit that this project involved a client. Most of these highlights pointed out the additional experience that this type of project can give students, saying that this “teaches you things that cannot be learned in the classroom.”
 - Many of the members in the meeting wanted to express that this project should be showcased in as many ways as possible, so that other students know it is possible to solve real world problems in engineering here at UAA.

IV. Old Business:

- A. UA Engineering Buildings Update – Kim Riggs (**See attached presentation**)
 - The new building is coming along on schedule and on budget. The building is 85% complete, the majority of what is remaining is interior, finishing touches.
 - The first things to be moved will be lab equipment, which will be happening over the summer. Offices need to be packed and ready to go by June 30th.
 - The furnishings will be installed in June, and completed by the July 1st.
 - We need to be out of the current Engineering Building by mid-July, causing this to be a fast process.
 - The Dean suite is now in the new EIB building.
 - There will be a tour of the Building after the meeting.
- B. Chairman’s Challenge & Board Engagement – Loren Leman
 - Discussed the purpose of this segment of the meeting, primarily refer to its importance in supporting the Dean and to attempt to connect this board with other advisory boards. He also wanted to highlight the importance of encouraging participation and interaction of the board.
- C. Scholarship and naming opportunities – Loren Leman and Jayna Combs
 - Board Endowed Scholarship – It was discussed that it would be ideal for the board to start a scholarship. An endowed scholarship of this nature would require \$25,000, which would likely take donations to fund. This is why the necessity of participation is so important. A possible way to raise money was brought up, Jayna discussed the possibility of

giving donors the incentive of having the building name or a room named after them in the new building, if their donation matched certain criteria. The criteria being, \$15 million for the new building to be named after the donor and \$25K for a room to be named after the donor. Board members may also be interested in donating towards the Endowed Scholarship or the Dean's Excellency award.

VI. New Business:

- A. Chairman Leman proposed that the board extend a formal thank you to Bart Quimby for stepping into the Dean position while they search for a new one.

VII. Persons to be Heard:

- A. UAF College of Engineering and Mines Dean - Doug Goering (via teleconference)
- Doug started by expressing his thanks for all the support that UAA has and continues to give him and the engineering program at University of Alaska Fairbanks.
 - The new Engineering Building at UAF is also facing budget issues. Currently, they have not received enough money from the Legislature to complete the building. It seems that the outside and most cosmetic piece to the building will be completed, but the functionality of the building will be lacking. They are hopeful that they will receive enough funding to complete the building, even though it appears unlikely, and that they will not be forced to work out of an incomplete engineering building for an extended period of time. One of the reasons that this funding issues has arisen is due to the funding towards the power plant renewal project.
 - Program review has taken its toll on UAF, being very surgical in its nature. Several Masters degrees have been heavily impacted, most of all on the Engineering and Science management Masters programs.
 - A few years ago they also had to close
 - Arctic Engineering is no longer going to be its own program, it is now going to be folded together into Civil Engineering. This is commonplace amongst the lower enrolled programs, such as Arctic Engineering.
 - UAF is excited to be graduating roughly 130, B.S. level Engineering students this year, which is 15% higher than last year.
 - A notable accomplishment was that the UAF bridge team swept the awards at the regional competition, and they now hope to win at the national level.
 - UAF plans to launch their first satellite into space this August.
 - He discussed the idea of having a specialized fee for Engineering students, possibly a customized tuition, in order to help alleviate the current budget issues.
 - Jim Hemsath commented on how ironic it is that Alaska is no longer offering a specific Arctic Engineering program, considering that we are the arctic state in the United States. Doug agreed with Jim, suggesting that one of the Universities in Alaska should offer it. He suggested that Anchorage would be a better destination for the degree, due to its stature as the population hub of Alaska and that it could draw in individuals already working to further themselves with a specialized Master's degree in Arctic Engineering.
- B. Chair of UAF CEMADC - Bryan Clemenz, P.E.
- Not available.
- C. Legislative Update – Ann Ringstad (via teleconference)
- Ann thanked everyone for participation and advocacy for Engineering. Suggesting that together the Engineering programs in Alaska can get through the budget crisis.

VIII. Committee Reports:

- ❖ Engineering Policy – Boyd Morgenthaler
 - Boyd is excited to meet the new Dean and discuss the possibility of becoming more intertwined with the high school program in the field of engineering. He suggested that it would be beneficial to give the students college credit for taking courses that are equivalent to the ones offered by the college. He suggested this as a way to lower the costs, considering that the University would have to teach fewer courses. Chancellor Leman then also pointed out that this could draw in more of Alaska's engineering students, keeping our brightest in State.

- ❖ Facilities: No separate report
- ❖ Membership – John Aho
 - Current bylaws allow 25 members and we have only 23 members. Sara Pate is currently filling in for Scott Pessetto, with the possibility of becoming a permanent member. Another individual being considered is Karen Hagedorn, the President of Exxon. She is very qualified and action is being taken to formally invite her.
- ❖ Graduate Research - Jon Zufelt
 - No report.
- ❖ Communications – No report.
- ❖ UAA/UAF Joint Committee – Richard Reich (**See attached report**)
 - Chantel Walsh has been appointed as UAF's Joint Committee representative. They met two weeks ago and had a meeting where they discussed the idea of broadening their committee.
 - They hope to update their task report, which was last updated in 2005, in hopes to help the new Dean coming in.
 - They also hope to create a system that will alleviate the stress of transferring credits between the two Universities.
 - The overall goal that Richard emphasized was to create a more cohesive environment, where UAA and UAF can function more as one Campus.
 - He closed by discussing his distaste with the loss of the Arctic Engineering program, suggesting that they hope to help the situation.

IX. Announcements and Member Comments:

- A. Next Regular Board Meeting – Thursday September 10, 2015, from 2-4p (immediately preceding the grand opening of the new EIB)
 - Discussed the possible locations of the meeting. Some options considered were the Gorsuch Commons, South Cafeteria in the Student Union, and the new Engineering and Industry Building.
- B. Member Comments - None

X. Adjournment:

- ❖ There was an EIB tour available, led by Kim Riggs, following the meeting. It was advised that proper attire for a construction site be worn, while additional safety accessories, hard hats and safety glasses, will be provided by the construction company.
- ❖ Chairman Leman adjourned the meeting at 9:49 am.