

**Geomatics Advisory Board**  
Engineering & Industry Building, Rm 413  
Friday, March 31, 2017, 8:30a-10:00a  
Minutes: Sandra Medina, GEO Admin

**1. Call to Order- 8:30am**

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

**3. Roll Call**

Attended:

Nathan Wardwell, Paul Brooks, Steve Buchanan, Joel Cusick, Isaiah Ditmer, Jennifer Dowling, Eric Gabrielson, John Kotlun, Bill Preston, Kevin Quinn, Michael Schoder, Jim Sharp, Tom Newman, Gennady Gienko (UAA), Jeff Hollingsworth (UAA), John Bean (UAA), Caixia Wang (UAA), Taylor Dosch (GSA)

Excused Absences:

Stan Moll, Jeff Yates

Unexcused Absences:

Brian Gutzwiller, Terrie Morganson, Steve Schmitt

**4. Approval of and changes to Agenda**

Michael Schoder motioned to approve agenda, Tom Newman second, approved.

**5. Approval of minutes from September 23, 2016 meeting.**

Amendment to the Q & A portion: fifth question, change “firing” to “hiring”. Michael Schoder motioned to approve with amendment, Paul Brooks second, approved.

**6. Old Business**

- a) Geomatics Department Update: See handout for more information. ABET will be displaying the departments self-study report at the April conference. UAA GEO is the biggest accredited program in the nation. Final accreditation decision to decide in July, see no obstacles why it will not be approve. Once approved, the program will have a 6-year accreditation.

Q: Did ABET have any questions about the curriculum changes? The curriculum changes are address in the self-study.

Q: How many accredited GEO programs are there in the US? There is less than 20 accredited 4-year degree GEO programs in the nation.

Q: Who were the ABET evaluators? Paul Moll and Jason Mercept

Enrollment: Of the 85 students actively enrolled in the program, 10 are under the AAS degree. Various reasons as to why they chose a 2-year degree and not a 4-year degree. The AAS degree is here to stay and there is no plan to eliminate it. The AAS topic can be revisited n 4years. There are 14 students enrolled in the GIS minor. ABET made no mention of the GIS Certificate, as it is not/was not an accredited program.

Graduates: We had 19 graduates this academic year. We have a good, streamlined curriculum that is allowing students to finish in a timely manner (4.5 years for a BS). Big contributors to this streamlined process are curriculum changes, faculty, and mandatory advising. Most of our students are under the new curriculum (catalog).

Q: How many of these graduates have jobs lined up? The department has not been keeping track of this. The department will include a question in the exit survey to start tracking this information. The department will also look into hosting a social event for alumni at a AKSMC conference. Another suggestion made to add a question to the conference survey about participant alumni status.

Departmental funds and scholarships: There is money available for scholarships. Applications to be review for fall once they are available. Gennady will look into other scholarships the GEO program used to have: Lounsbury Award and Sidney Henderson Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

Outlook for 2017-2018: Stacked graduate level courses, 400/600 level, are up for approval. Approve at the College level and are in the Faculty Senate for approval. No reason why the Faculty Senate would not approve. Once the Faculty Senate approves them, the proposal moves to the Provost office. The courses are Spatial Analysis and Spatial Data. John Bean and Jeff Hollingsworth will be offering two hybrid courses in the fall, similar format to GIS A101/L.

Miscellaneous: The College has hired a new STEM Coordinator, the candidate starts in June. There is an open search for a new Distance Education Coordinator position for the College. Jeff Hollingsworth proposed the idea of rebranding the Geomatics program. Due to the complex nature of the topic, the discussion was table to the next GAB meeting.

- b) Senior Project Design Update: See attachment for senior project titles. The Mount Marathon Mapping Project will be presenting at the College of Engineering Advisory Board meeting on April 21, 2017. Suggestion for a future topic: doing work on University lands. Senior project ideas are coordinate with John Bean; please email him ([jbean6@alaska.edu](mailto:jbean6@alaska.edu)) your ideas/suggestions.
- c) GSA Update: GSA focus is community outreach. Several GSA members will be assisting with proctoring the Trig-Star exam on April 6. Taylor Dosch will be the GSA Outreach Coordinator in the fall. GSA would like to pair students with a professional mentor. If interested, please sign up. Upcoming even for the community is on May 6, at Goose Lake Pavilion.

## **7. New Business:**

- a) GAB Chair Update: Michael Schoder is retiring and will be vacating his GAB seat and vice-chair duties. Michael will be reachable at (907)240-1494, [mhschoder@gmail.com](mailto:mhschoder@gmail.com). Kurt Huhta of BLM nominated to replace Michael. Paul Brooks motioned to approve the nomination, Michael Schoder second, approved. Vice-Chair position needs to be fill: Steve Buchanan volunteered for the position. Tom Newman motioned to approved Steve Buchanan as Vice-Chair, Jennifer Dowling second, approved. Nathan agreed to extend his Chair duties one more year. Bill Preston motioned to approve, Michael Schoder second, approved.
- b) GAB Membership/Vacancies: Still looking to fill a member to represent Southeast region. Steve and Jim will reach out to DOT reps and see if there is any interest in joining GAB.

## **8. Additions to Agenda**

## **9. Schedule next meeting**

GEO admin will send out a Doodle poll to schedule next meeting.

**10. Adjournment- 10:35am**