

**Minutes
Geomatics Advisory Board**

**Alaska Survey and Mapping Conference
Room: Illiamna
Date: Monday February 16, 2015
Time: 11:30AM – 1:30PM**

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Roll Call**

None by phone

Attended:

Jim Sharp	jsharp@whpacific.com
Michael Schoder	mschoder@blm.gov
Daniel Collins	uaa.gsa@gmail.com
Amy Orange-Posma	amy.orange@alaska.gov
Steve Buchanan	steve.buchanan@survbase.com
Nathan Wardwell	nathan@joasurveys.com
Eric Gabrielson	eric@designalaska.com
Joel Nudelman	joel.nudelman@alaska.gov
Joel Cusick	joel_cusick@nps.gov
Steve Schmitt	schmittsg@muni.org
Terri Morganson	tmorganson@esri.com
John Oswald	joswald@gci.net
John Koltun	john.koltun@integratedgeospatial.com
Kevin Quinn	Kevin@alaskaarts.net
Jeff Hollingsworth	jphollingsworth@uaa.alaska.edu
Caixia Wang	cwang12@uaa.alaska.edu

4. Approval of and changes to Agenda

Meeting agenda approved with the addition of a discussion of Student Outreach to be added to the agenda.

5. Approval of minutes from December 5, 2014 meeting.

Minutes of the December 5, 2014 meeting approved.

6. Geomatics Department updates

a. Prioritization results – Gennady Gienko

A Prioritization Study was performed by the University and the programs were assessed as follows:

- Bachelor of Science in Geomatics – This degree will be maintained with the three emphasis currently in place.
- AAS in Geomatics – This program will dwindle over time, partly due to lack of interest and increasing professional requirements.

- Minor in GIS – This degree will be restructured to make it more affordable/attainable
- Undergraduate Certificate in GIS – This program will be reviewed further. It has suffered from low enrollment and even lower graduation. Of those enrolled only a few had no college credits and 85% had 60 or more college credits. The plan is to restructure this into a Post Baccalaureate Certificate and move more of it online. No real savings to cut this as the classes are required for the GIS emphasis in the BS degree.
- GIS Minor – Needs to be transformed so that it is more affordable and can be completed in 4 years.

Enrollment & New curriculum – a curriculum review was led by then Department Chair Bart Quimby in 2014. In Fall 2014 70 students enrolled, 12 graduated in Spring. 2015 60 enrolled. Seats from 2014-15 down, may be an outcome of curriculum change but the numbers are in line with other Geomatics schools nationwide.

b. Budget – Gennady Gienko

The University wants the College of Engineering to cut \$1.4 m or 16% of its budget. This is less than many parts of the University.

The faculty search is ongoing with 26 applications.

The focus is for bipartied candidates with experience: practical & academic. Teaching loads have directed this choice as the bipartied contracts provide more teaching hours. Students need more core instruction and not enough adjuncts are available hence the emphasis on practical experience. Practical experience candidates will have phone interviews next week, then hopefully offers. Hope is to have new contracted faculty member before selected in the next few months.

c. Fundraising – Gennady Gienko

Talcott fund only program fund, rest are scholarship. Tuition waivers from UAA were worth \$8k last year and are probably going away due to budget cuts.

National scholarships are available but there are not many applicants.

List of corporate & individual donors was provided.

A display in the new building will be for donors / sponsors.

d. Geomatics Server – Caixia Wang

The new Geomatics Server supports flexible time schedules & self-paced learning.

Two, GIS 101 & Introduction to Surveying Lectures & Lab both are now online.

The obstacle of low performance computers on student side is addressed by the server since the software is resident on the server.

System is currently licensed for 25 users but the department would like to increase server licenses to 50. The server has 350 gigabytes of memory and can support the additional users without additional hardware.

e. Industry survey for ABET – Jeffery Hollingsworth

An Industry survey is needed for ABET certification.

Jeff Hollingsworth would like the GAB to take the survey today and turn them into GSA booth this week. The survey will be submitted generally to the community soon.

7. Geomatics Student Association Representatives

Daniel Collins and Lilly Capell.

Attend ESRI & NSPS conferences

No volunteers to attend the National Hydrographic conference fully paid including airfare

Weekend classes for outside training National Cartography Summer Engineering camp

Students are generally happy with new curriculum.

Ideas for Capstone projects needed –

Terri asked about timing and Tom asked about keeping inventory of ideas Terri also suggested a list of organizations to work 1-on1 with students for capstone project ideas

List of past capstone projects was suggested for ideas.

Eric asked about community service projects

Terri is leading a committee to organize and create a list of potential capstone projects.

8. Schedule next meeting.

No schedule was committed

9. Adjournment